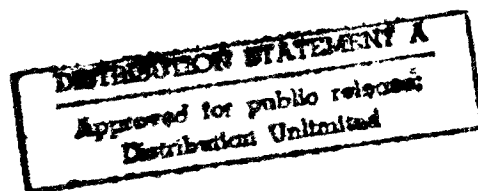


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Latin America Report



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24 July 1985

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PAY HIKE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 7 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

The Hon. Christopher O'Mard, Minister responsible for Civil Service matters announced recently that civil servants would receive increases in pay ranging from 8-12 1/2 per cent. This will be retroactive to September, 1984.

This was the second phase of the Antigua Labour Party government's commitment to bridge the existing gap between salaries paid by the private and public sectors and to ensure that the country's wealth is more equitably disbursed. It is also hoped that by so doing, more qualified persons will pursue careers in the public sector.

ECCB REPORT

Since the Antigua Labour Party was returned to power by the way of a general election in April 1984, the country has shown continued growth and prosperity. The East Caribbean Central Bank which is headquartered in St. Kitts shows that there was a real growth rate of 4.7 per cent in 1984 as compared with 2.3 per cent in 1983. The report stressed that after three years of slow growth rate which were between 1.7 and .3 per cent the economy had taken a significantly upward turn. There is no doubt that this reflects sound principles of man-

agement since policies are paying off and the stability continues.

Against the background of hope and tranquility one must of necessity place the International Monetary Funds proclamation of doom and the advice that Antigua and Barbuda should follow in the footsteps of some financially troubled countries by laying off. To this, the government will not agree since the International Monetary Fund has not proved to be the panacea or developing and under-developed countries.

BACK PAY

Earlier, the cabinet has agreed to pay non-established workers an increase of 12 and a 1/2 per cent which also dates back to September 1984. The new agreement was signed last month and some workers have already received the increased amounts. The Minister of Finance, Hon. John St. Luce, estimates that the backpay for both the civil servants and non-established workers will amount to between six and seven million dollars. Half of this he expects to be paid before Carnival 1985.

CSO: 3298/815

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT--A high-level committee has been set up within the Ministry of Economic Development to review matters related to the country's development. The "Economic Caucus" as the committee is called meets every Monday under the chairmanship of the Minister of Economic Development, Hon Lester Bird. The other members are the two Ministers in the Ministry, Hon Hugh Marshall and Hon Molwyn Joseph, as well as the technical officers in the Ministry. An informed source says the committee will look at the direction the economy is taking, as well as problems it may be facing. The committee also looks at the problems affecting regional trade and the manufacturing industry. Other matters include the Nassau Understanding, the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and how best to utilise external aid funds. [Text] [St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 7 Jun 85 p 6]

CSO: 3298/815

BARBADOS

DEVELOPMENT UNIT DISCERNS JOINT-VENTURE PROSPECTS ABROAD

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Joy Springer]

[Text]

There is a good chance that a number of joint venture opportunities now being pursued by the Industrial Development Corporation's European office will produce positive results before the end of the year.

This is the view of IDC chairman, Mr. Fred Gollop, who returned over the weekend from meetings in the IDC's New York and Brussels offices and with prospective investors in the United States and Europe.

Mr. Gollop said that European industrialists were becoming more aware of the advantages of an offshore location to benefit from the provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the Lome Convention. He noted that the costs in Barbados were about one-third of those in Europe.

He said that the IDC European office, in addition to its own promotional efforts, has been involved in seminars in various European cities

sponsored by the Caribbean Basin Business Information Centre of the United States Department of Commerce.

While in New York, Mr. Gollop and other IDC officials interviewed a number of public relations consultants and the IDC chairman will shortly make submissions to the board of the corporation.

The terms of reference of the firm selected will be to update the image of Barbados as a sophisticated manufacturing location and generally to improve the communication effort.

One immediate area of difficulty facing promotional efforts was related to the garment sector, he said. He noted that a number of arrangements under the so-called 807 joint production strategy for garments was being hampered by quantitative restrictions.

Mr. Gollop said: "Many CBI-designated countries are pressing for legislation which would waive US customs duty on apparel assembled in the Caribbean Basin from United States material for the duration of the CBI."

The chairman and Mr. Rawle Chase, IDC general manager, held a meeting in Washington on aspects of the CBI with officials of the Department of Commerce and Trade, the United States Agency for International Development and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Before returning home, he also attended a meeting in London last week between then Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Lloyd Brathwaite, and Mr. Paul Channon, Britain's Minister of Industry. Mr. Brathwaite also addressed businessmen in London and Brussels.

CSO: 3298/838

BARBADOS

BARROW AT RALLY DEFINES SOME DLP POLICY POSITIONS

Address in St James

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 17 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

A GLANCE INTO THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY'S (DLP) manifesto was given to a crowd in the St. James North constituency by Opposition Leader, Mr. Errol Barrow.

In his speech before the opening of the DLP's branch office at Prescod Road, Mount Standfast, St. James, on Saturday, Mr. Barrow said the DLP would seriously undertake as soon as possible, to ensure that the citizens of this country were put in a position from which they could advance.

Quoting an extract from a message delivered to the United States Congress by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on January 20, 1941, Mr. Barrow said that Mr. Roosevelt had asked: "What do the people of a country expect of their political leaders?"

Mr. Barrow said that Mr. Roosevelt had said the first thing the country expected was that the people should have equality of opportunity, there should be jobs for the young people and those people who wanted to work, they should have security, and they should have enough time for leisure to develop their personalities, and they should have enough money left in their pockets.

Taking equality first, Mr. Barrow said: "We are a social democratic organisation. We do not make any apologies for it."

He said social democracy was a faith, and the task of the whole concept was in the question of equality. He also noted that education was basic to the concept of equality.

If people did not have education, he said, they could not have the intellectual tools that could allow them to aspire to positions of management and leadership.

On the question of jobs, Mr. Barrow said the political directorate of this country looked on jobs as something that should be dispensed on the basis of patronage and not on the basis of right.

Mr. Barrow said: "I have been criticised when I was in Government and I will be criticised again. But it is unfortunate that if you have a democracy you have to do these things."

He added that the Government collected taxes from everybody in the society. It should not be said that jobs were being sought for a certain group, Mr. Barrow said.

But those were the facts of life, he stated.

He said the first job the DLP would do on return to Government would be to create enough employment opportunities for everybody in the society.

He said if the DLP could not do that there would be no point in asking for a return to office.

The DLP political leader said he was a Barbadian, and he did not like what was happening in this country. He would like to see his money and that of the taxpayers being spent in a more justifiable and productive manner than at present, he said.

Mr. Barrow also saw a need to ease income tax so as to allow people to have more disposable income.

A serious look would also be taken of statutory boards, which Mr. Barrow called a massive form of patronage.

The whole question of the levies would be examined, too, Mr. Barrow said.

Views on Branches

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 17 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

THE MALAISE that afflicts constituency organisation is not peculiar to Barbados, said Opposition Leader, Errol Barrow, on Saturday night.

Mr. Barrow said the malaise was something endemic in the whole West Indian society.

He said: "Prior to our annual conference, which was held on the last Sunday in August, every year, constituency branches hold their annual general meetings, and my experience was that about 20 percent of the membership would turn up for such a serious communication as the annual general conference."

The DLP political leader said usually, the people who spoke most and longest were elected chairman and secretary of a branch.

After that, Mr. Barrow said, the elected officers retired and went into hibernation, and any activity which the branch debated had, invariably, to be grounded on the administration of the central headquarters of the party.

Mr. Barrow said any branch of a political party should be the linchpin behind all activity that went on in that constituency.

He added: "The ideas which should constitute the programme of the party should also come from the individual branches, rather than from the political directorate itself."

"Instead of that, what we have been having, is the executive council of the organisation appointing a committee to draft a manifesto, and that is the manifesto of the DLP," Mr. Barrow said.

The practice therefore of democracy, Mr. Barrow said, was not what the political scientists described as participatory democracy, because the people who prepared the programmes for the political parties had to try to project their minds forward and above the total electorate who should advise on the programme which they think would be acceptable to the generality of the citizens of this country.

The people who participate in the management of the country, once every four or five years, Mr. Barrow said, should themselves be formulating the programme and telling their representatives the kind of action that they would wish to see taken on their behalf over a specific period of time.

Voter Registration Concerns

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 17 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

IF THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY (DLP) is forced to go to the polls with the present electoral list, it would not win the election, according to Opposition Leader, Mr. Errol Barrow.

The reason for this, he added, was because in every constituency of this island, there were at least 300 people who were non-existent, and who were not enti-

led to vote in those constituencies.

Long before the 1981 general election, Mr. Barrow said, in his St. John constituency, he could not find 330 people, and there were only 760 Barbados Labour Party (BLP) votes in that constituency.

He alleged that all was not well with the electoral system.

But he said one step in the right direction had been made because the Electoral and Boundaries Commission had been appointed.

One interesting feature about

the legislation setting up the commission, he said, was that the commission was supposed to report not less than one year after it had been established.

"It is competent for the Prime Minister to advise the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament at any time from tomorrow. So that, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission may not have time to report because they cannot report 12 months from the date they have been officially appointed."

CSO: 3298/838

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

FACTORY CLOSING--Yet another local garment factory has gone out of business. This time it is Eastern Industries located in Newton Industrial Parl. At an extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday, it was decided to place the five-year-old company into voluntary liquidation. Company officials could not be contacted yesterday to comment on the number of staff made jobless or any other matters relating to the company. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Jun 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/838

BELIZE

PAPER FINDS 'CHINKS IN UDP ARMOUR,' ECONOMY 'LISTLESS'

Belize City AMANDALA in English 31 May 85 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. May 31

Chinks have become visible in the armour of the ruling United Democratic Party.

They exist not only at the street level, but also in the beams and support structure of the party, and, reportedly, at Cabinet level itself.

The UDP inherited, it need hardly be said, an economic crisis, but their moves have not been decisive or successful in proportion to the landslide political mandate they received in December and March.

To the audible and impatient grumbling from the non-partisan street level to the effect that "while di grass di grow di cow di starve", have been recently added the groans of those party stalwarts who have lost tenders and contracts to known PUPs when the UDP failed to exploit the spoils system as the PUP had done for so long and so thoroughly.

Even more serious have been reports that the Cabi-

net has been suffering from poor attendance and chronic bickering and finger pointing.

(Many party supporters remain manifestly patient, and there is no PUP opposition to speak of, so that the political malaise now afflicting the UDP will not be fatal.)

The roots of the problem are economic. Our sources have been saying that savings in the banks increased some \$15 to \$18 million between December 1984 and March 1985, but the government, à la the PUP, has borrowed all of it. They did this by forcing commercial banks to up their capital reserves to 30 per cent, insisting they deposit same in the Central Bank, on which they then issued treasury bills.

The UDP's answer to all complaints is investors, but there are other, even more destitute countries which are competing for these elusive creatures, so the economy lies listless, in the doldrums.

Perhaps the darkest hour is just before the dawn.

CSO: 3298/816

PAPER NOTES DRUG OPERATIONS, PUTS ONUS ON UDP

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 16 Jun 85 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

RECENT INFORMATION reaching the REPORTER indicate that most of the aviation gasoline used to refuel the illegal marijuana planes landing in Belize come from Chetumal. There has been at least one reliable report of a tanker truck coming across with a full load of Mexican aviation gas and having no trouble at all with the Santa Elena Customs authorities.

To the extent that it is relatively easy to obtain aviation gasoline from Chetumal, the effectiveness of present legislation controlling the distribution of this fuel is weakened. This is not to suggest that control measures on Av. Gas are not necessary. The law does not distinguish between Av. Gas obtained in Belize and that obtained in Chetumal. Possession of this kind of fuel is a criminal offence, no matter the source. But the Chetumal connection should alert law enforcement authorities that control at the local source is not sufficient and perhaps should be reviewed. Stronger measures will have to be taken to supervise the border at Santa Elena if Belize's war on drugs is to become effective.

Another area of concern, due to smuggling on a large scale, is the Belize International Airport. Suitcases of marijuana still go off regularly, undetected on various commercial flights. Small aircraft still land, swap cargoes and take off under the blind eye of tower control operators. Substantial cargoes still come in from time to time without having to pay any duties.

As a matter of urgency that whole airport operation ought to be severely shaken down and tightened up. The Santa Elena border and Belize International Airport are only two areas, the two biggest ones, where people intent on fraud have been able to operate.

When the people of Belize gave their overwhelming endorsement to the United Democratic Party in December last year, they did so not because they were expecting to see immediate relief from their economic woes. They did it because they believed the UDP had the strength of character, the energy and the will power to correct many years of corruption; to take the tough decisions which would be necessary to put this country back on course.

This to our mind, means waging a fierce battle against corruption wherever we find it, in a high or low places, wiping out the elitism which has created a nest of blood-suckers whose greed and cynicism are unlimited, and replacing it with a merit system where deserving people also get a few breaks.

This kind of reform takes time, and it can be very expensive. But unless it makes a vigorous start, the UDP government runs the risk of seriously frustrating the efforts of those who had the confidence in them to put them in the seat of power.

CSO: 3298/839

BELIZE

BRIEFS

PUP CONVENTIONS--The People's United Party has begun holding divisional conventions in preparation for a national convention later this year. This week, Tuesday in Belize City the Freetown Division held its convention at Independence Hall where Party Leader George Price was re-elected Chairman of that division. Mr Price in addressing the convention, reviewed the work of the PUP while in Government. Deputy Party Leader C.L.B. Rogers meanwhile spoke of the events that were unfolding under the UDP government and of the role of the PUP as the Opposition. Also at Independence Hall on Wednesday night, Mr Louis Humphreys was re-elected Chairman of the Caribbean Shores Division. A special feature at the convention was a presentation of "OUR TURN"--a discussion programme on the state of the economy of Belize. The Cayo Central Divisional Convention has also been held. This convention on Sunday was attended by a large number of party supporters who unanimously re-elected Mr Assad Shoman as Chairman of Cayo Central Division. This Sunday the Corozal Southeast Division will hold its convention in the village of Sarteneja. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 2 Jun 85 p 9]

DDT ISSUE--Belize City, Fri, May 31--Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise. Thus goes the saying. Radio Belize's headline news this morning was that the government of Mexico had given our Ministry of Health 55 tons of DDT insecticide (a 3 year supply) worth \$200,000 Bze for the national malaria eradication program. The inescapable fact of the matter is that DDT was condemned in the United States more than 20 years ago as a dangerous chemical pollutant and carcinogen. The stuff accumulates in the fatty tissue of fishes, birds and animals, poisoning them, then poisoning in turn those humans who eat them. You can look it up. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 31 May 85 p 1]

CHANGES AT BELIZE TIMES--The Belize Times, the main propaganda organ of the ousted People's United Party (PUP), is reportedly like the party in the process of reorganization. Following the UDP's smashing victory in the December general elections and in this year's countrywide municipal elections, two of the party's main three newspapers, the Disweek and Ray Lightburn's Tribune, both folded dramatically. Now that the party has lost the use of the state radio, insiders feel that The Belize Times must be reorganized to carry the whole of the propaganda role. According to a reliable source, Editor Enrique Martinez who took the paper through last year's heated political campaign was fired following a heated meeting held on Tuesday night. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Jun 85 p 5]

BERMUDA

PLP DISSIDENTS WITHDRAW, FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Reinstatement Maneuvers

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 18 May 85 p 6

[Excerpt]

Four expelled Progressive Labour Party MPs last night vowed to stand firm behind their leadership challenge as an attempt to force a special conference ended in tatters.

A move to call a special delegates conference to discuss their reinstatement collapsed when they won backing from only two branches — one short of the number required by party rules.

The PLP Supporters for Change had hoped four branches would pass resolutions calling for the conference, but two branches stopped short of demanding the delegates meeting.

Mr. Gilbert Darrell last night issued a statement on behalf of the four MPs which stressed a delegates conference was needed to thrash out their criticisms of party leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans.

He said: "We recognise the sincere efforts taken by certain branches.

"However, we must make clear to our constituents and supporters that we will accept reinstatement when the party members have convened a democratic special delegates conference and resolved all the issues for which we were unconstitutionally expelled."

Four branches held special meetings earlier this week simply to discuss the reinstatement.

Only the branches in Hamilton and Smith's Parishes voted in favour of a special delegates conference, while the Paget branch merely called for the reinstatement of six expelled members.

But a decision by Sandys Parish, backing a call from the party's Central Committee was a major disappointment to the Supporters for Change who had expected the branch to give them support.

Resignation Action

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 May 85 p 1

[Article by Joe Weber]

[Text]

Four expelled Progressive Labour Party MPs last night cut their final links with the Opposition and appeared to be on the brink of forming a new political force.

They met behind closed doors to tell their supporters they had decided to turn their backs on the party which expelled them for criticising the leadership of Mrs. Lois Browne Evans.

The official break with the Opposition party comes only days after an attempt to demand a special conference to thrash out their complaints floundered when they failed to win support from enough branches.

MPs Mr. Gilbert Darrell, Mr. Walter Brangman, Mr. Lionel Simmons and Mr. Austin Thomas told the PLP Supporters for Change they had now decided to completely quit the party.

"There comes a time when we have to say enough is enough," they said in a joint statement.

"We have the responsibility to represent not only our supporters, but our constituents and our Country.

"Therefore, it is with deep regret that we reached the conclusion that, from this time on, we will not be seeking reinstatement in the Progressive Labour Party.

"Instead, we take with us the ideals and principles upon which the party was founded and we leave the name behind."

The four MPs have been sitting in the House of Assembly under the title of In-

dependents since their expulsion from the PLP last year.

The MPs statement added: "Quite clearly, the leadership group of the Progressive Labour Party, is not prepared to help bring about any form of reunification within the party.

"Instead, this leadership group has actively pursued a course designed to divide the party further and further.

"We have tried everything we can to create an environment in which all concerned members of the PLP can sit down and rationally discuss the many problems which beset the PLP.

"To put it simply, the PLP leadership does not want to hear from anyone who disagrees or who has different ideas about the party's direction.

"The PLP leadership is not interested in a programme designed to make the PLP a viable, trustworthy alternative to the present Government.

"We, as elected Members of Parliament cannot go on like this indefinitely."

Earlier in the day PLP Chairman Mr. Alex Scott warned the MPs would be committing political suicide if they decided to form a third political party.

"History would suggest that the independents have a hard road to go and this might well be the end of their political careers if they decide to form a third party."

New-Party Move

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 25 May 85 p 1

[Text]

A new political party was quietly being formed yesterday as four expelled Progressive Labour Party MPs prepared to challenge Bermuda's traditional two-party system.

The MPs officially called for a breathing space to give their supporters time to realise they had finally cut all their links with the PLP.

But their supporters launched a behind-the-scenes campaign to win backing from PLP members who are unhappy with the handling of a bitter nine-month row over the leadership of Mrs. Lois Browne Evans.

Already members of the PLP Supporters for Change are preparing to resign from the Opposition Party and groups are meeting to draw up a framework for a third political party.

Their first political move is likely to be picking a candidate to challenge the two existing parties in a by-election on July 11 in the Pembroke West constituency.

A fight in the United Bermuda Party stronghold would give them a platform on which to spell out the differences in their approach from the Party they have just turned their backs on.

This week, at a two-and-a-half hour meeting behind closed doors, more than 50 of

their supporters heard MPs Mr. Walter Brangman, Mr. Gilbert Darrell, Mr. Lionel Simmons and Mr. Austin Thomas announce they were ending attempts to win reinstatement to the PLP.

It came only days after a move to force the setting up of a special delegates conference failed when they won backing from only two branches, instead of the three required by Party rules.

Spokesman Mrs. Kathleen Bell said: "The Supporters for Change threw their weight behind the four Independent Members of Parliament and we have disassociated ourselves from the PLP.

"Before we make an official announcement as to our future plans we would like to have an interim period of a few days so those persons who could not attend the meeting can digest the information that four of their senior PLP Parliamentarians are no longer associated with their Party.

"It was a lively meeting and there was a great deal of optimism," she said.

PLP chairman Mr. Alex Scott has already dismissed the break-away group as unimportant to the PLP and warned the MPs will be committing political suicide.

Dissident's Statement

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 31 May 85 p 6

[Article by Kath Bell]

[Text]

Our political movement, our Party, is based on the need for change; to remove the stranglehold of power blocs, so that the electorate can finally share in the political power and decision making in our own country.

Our political group is determined to pursue a course of political, economic and social integrity to ensure that all people of Bermuda have equal opportunity, freedom to express opinion and, above all, to become the most important citizens in our own country.

To develop philosophies and policies which will guarantee that the Bermudian people will accept responsibility for the development and welfare of Bermuda.

LOSS OF CONFIDENCE

On Wednesday, May 22, 1985, the ad hoc group, known as "PLP Supporters for Change", voted to form a new political party in Bermuda. Members of Parliament, Gilbert Darrell, Walter Brangman, Lionel Simmons and Austin Thomas had reached the conclusion that they would no longer "seek re-instatement in the PLP".

A "Third Party" or "New Party" is at a disadvantage in our system of political and parliamentary procedure. This disadvantage is due to the fact that the two existing parties (the PLP and the UBP) hold collective positions and hence, collective political power, in that one is the official Opposition and the other is the Government.

However, if the "third" or "new" Party bears in mind that the public is watching its actions and statements very closely, and, that the public at large seems to have lost confidence in the honesty, integrity and general demeanour of both political parties, then a "third" party can achieve a great deal in the public's interest.

Both the existing parties appear to be stagnant and are rapidly losing the confidence of the electorate. There is a crying need for a group which can be defined as a political movement seeking recognition with the electorate, so that considerable gains can be made in terms of parliamentary elections and seats.

OPEN TO ALL

At this stage, although we are resolved to structure our group into a political party, within a constitutional framework and to promulgate platforms, we can remain, if we wish, informally structured.

We can enlist membership, through support and our meetings remain open to all interested persons.

However, we need to bear in mind that there will be people attending our meetings to learn what we are about, not necessarily to assist us but, perhaps to hinder us in our endeavours.

As long as we speak the truth, as we see it and as long as our goals are sincere, regarding our fellow Bermudians, we should have no difficulty sharing our information and our views with friends and foe alike.

We should consider ourselves to be a cohesive political force, seeking changes in policies and seeking to represent the many people who are virtually disenfranchised in our country today.

Both Government and the Opposition are concentrating on the enhancement of their respective leaders who, in turn, seem to be focusing on their individual programmes of self-aggrandisement, to the detriment of the issues causing such concern in our community.

These issues appear to be directly related to the tense economic situation, particularly in tourism, which could be due to the rapid growth of industry (exempt company) and the technological development, along with the inept, inadequate long-term financial planning.

UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION

The political issues in Bermuda have been, and still are, caused by an established elite's refusal to share power. There are serious economic and social problems, because of unfair distribution of the country's wealth. The grievances of different economic groups are not being addressed which, in turn, can only lead to devastating social reactions.

Nationally, we must employ tactics and devise strategies to deal with the short-term goals, which lead us to the ultimate goal — Government.

For the General Election, we must field candidates, worthy of the community's and the electorate's confidence, trust and VOTES.

We must win enough seats to place us ahead of the present Opposition, so that we BECOME the OPPOSITION. In this way, we no longer fall into the category of "third" or "new" party.

During our time as Opposition, we must seek places on Boards and Committees, which deal with the running of our country. (The PLP prohibits its members from participating in this way). Our members of Parliament must honestly and steadfastly represent their constituents.

We must all aggressively canvass the community, to keep abreast of all issues affecting the people of Bermuda and we must be determined to represent our fellow Bermudians, by becoming the Government of Bermuda.

(Editor's note: The foregoing article, written and submitted by Mrs. Kathleen Bell, is published as a public service. It is not to be construed as an endorsement of, or support of, this political group by The Workers Voice or the Bermuda Industrial Union. The opinions expressed therein have been submitted by Mrs. Bell on behalf of her group.)

CSO: 3298/806

BERMUDA

PLP VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHT FOR MORATORIUM ON STATUS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 11 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

Progressive Labour Party chairman Mr. Alex Scott yesterday promised an Opposition campaign for a moratorium on status would continue despite new Government proposals.

Minister of Labour and Home Affairs the Hon. Sir John Sharpe has drawn up a detailed plan to tighten up on work permits and the granting of status.

But Mr. Scott complained the changes were only a small step in the right direction and did not go far enough to deal with the real problems.

"The campaign will definitely go on for a moratorium on status," he said. "To tighten up one area and leave the door open in another is a counter-productive move.

"Any moves to protect the status of Bermudians in the work place and in the country generally, are welcomed by the party, but it sounds as if it's only a very small step."

He said the PLP would go along with a change in the rules to allow foreign spouses of Bermudians to be treated as special cases when applying for status.

But he dismissed suggestions that if Ber-

muda stopped granting status other countries would make it more difficult for Bermudians working abroad to obtain citizenship.

"Neither Canada nor the US have the burden of space. They are not 21 square miles in area; they are not one of the most heavily populated countries in the world.

"I think we are seeing a sleight of the hand here. I don't think there is a real comparison between Bermuda and the US or Canada."

He insisted Government should now be putting an emphasis on training Bermudians in the skills they needed to obtain the top jobs in the country.

"Tightening up on work permits is still a half step. Bermudians have to be concerned about the amount of land space left for those already living here.

"You have to accept that all of these things are inter-related. It's no longer a luxury we can afford to leave the door open.

"Bermuda, more than anywhere else in the world, has run out of land space."

CSO: 3298/807

BERMUDA

SWAN SEES INCREASING DEMAND FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Jun 85 p 24

[Text]

Premier the Hon. John Swan yesterday predicted that Bermuda may have to consider importing additional labour while striving to make increasing use of new technology in order to support future business growth.

He said he was tired of hearing "negatives" levelled at "guest workers" — a term he said he preferred to expatriates — and that it was now "time to move ahead".

He argued that the Island's recent economic performance had greatly outstripped increases in the workforce and that employers now faced stiffer competition for staff.

But he told a meeting of insurance managers that their industry must continue to aim for growth and he pledged that Government would do all it could to help.

"We have to grow or cease to exist," he said. "There is no such thing as standing still."

Addressing the annual lunch of the Bermuda Insurance Management Association, the Premier forecast the local market was in for a period of renewed strength.

He described the association's members as Bermuda's "industrial managers" who must recognise the importance of their role in the economy.

And he said the Island was now facing similar problems to those confronting it in 1974-75.

"We had a housing crisis, the US economy was soft and tour-

ism was down," he said. "We are at a similar cross-roads now."

The Premier called for "a collective effort" to resolve current economic difficulties.

But he admitted that Government has been faced with what he called a conflict of priorities.

He explained that support has been needed both for tourism, which produces jobs, and for the insurance industry, which generates foreign exchange earnings.

And he added: "This duality (of priorities) has weakened both industries. But we must stop feeling guilty, stop feeling sorry. We have come through a difficult period and we don't need a feeling of doom and gloom."

Mr. Swan promised the managers they could look forward to the kind of cooperation they need from Government.

"You have a commitment from me and you have a Government which is prepared to break down the barriers and remove any impediments to your growth," he said. "Together we can forge a new kind of industry which will benefit everybody."

Mr. Swan's speech will be warmly received by the insurance industry, particularly its umbrella group the Bermuda Insurance Association which has accused Government of collecting company fees rather than supporting international business.

BERMUDA

WRANGLING IN UBP AS STAGE IS SET FOR PEMBROKE BY-ELECTION

Assessment of Contenders

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 85 p 1

[Text]

The UBP will face its toughest test of the year in a by-election forced by the death of former Cabinet Minister the Hon. William McPhee, according to political observers.

Under the constitution, an election must be held in the next two months for the Pembroke West seat of the former Transport Minister, who died on Monday.

The run up to that will be the scene of the first big public rift between the Premier's supporters and opponents, according to the commentators. One of them anticipated "slaughter".

There are expected to be at least two UBP candidates for the seat, which will make it difficult for the party to avoid a primary election. That primary would be likely to be the scene of embarrassing and damaging party infighting.

Publicly, leading figures have been loathe to comment on who might stand for the safe Government seat or what might happen if a primary is held. But there appear to be three top contenders in the UBP:

■ Dr. David Dyer, a dentist, who is chairman of the party's Pembroke West branch and a supporter of the Premier.

■ Mrs. Susan Gunther, a businesswoman, who is a

powerful figure in the Pembroke branch and believed to be an opponent of Mr. Swan.

■ Senator the Hon. Gerald Simons, the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, who has not sided with either the Premier's supporters or opponents.

Dr. Dyer, who stood in a primary before the by-election in the same constituency a year ago, said it was too soon after Mr. McPhee's death to speculate about the future of his seat.

But he admitted: "As chairman of the branch, I am trying to contact my committee to decide what's likely to happen. Obviously, it always depends on what the Premier decides to do about Pembroke West because he has the final decision."

He said he was not certain there would be a primary.

Speaking about the death of Mr. McPhee after a long illness, he said: "People are only just realising the loss they have experienced. It is a sad occasion, and we are really just dealing with that just now."

Mrs. Gunther is abroad on holiday until June 10 at least, while Sen. Simons declined to comment.

The party's Chief Executive, Mr. Ed Williams,

said: "Bill's just died, so it's early days yet.

"Under the constitution, we have to have a by-election within 60 days, but we probably will not know whether we will have one or two potential candidates, causing a primary, until after Mr. McPhee's funeral.

"People will hold off until then to inform the branch committee as to their interest in running for the constituency, out of respect."

He admitted: "People are now probably considering it. You will probably begin to see activity next week."

PLP chairman Mr. Alex Scott, meanwhile, said: "It would be a little irreverent to be seen to be rushing into our politicking even before Mr. McPhee's funeral service.

"Obviously, it means there will have to be a by-election, and I am sure the party will be meeting on this

in very short order.

"We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mr. McPhee. He put up a valiant fight against his illness."

He said there was unlikely to be a PLP primary before the by-election, explaining: "It is not one of those areas where we have a long list of people lined up."

Mr. Calvin Smith, who stood as a PLP candidate in the constituency a year ago but who is now a leading figure in the Members for Change movement, said he had not given much thought to the idea of standing again. "After all, Mr. McPhee has only just died," he said.

He said he entertained little serious hope of anyone taking the seat from the UBP. "But it will be interesting to see what happens because of the slaughter that will be taking place in the UBP," he said.

Party Activity

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 May 85 p 1

[Text]

The United Bermuda Party was last night gearing itself for a primary battle in the Pembroke West constituency.

Dentist Dr. David Dyer announced he would be challenging Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs Sen. the Hon. Gerald Simons for the UBP nomination.

A ballot box challenge was also launched by expelled Progressive Labour Party member Mr. Roger Russell who said he would be standing as an Independent in the by-election on Thursday, July 11.

The UBP branch will now meet to draw up a time-table for a primary selection battle, only days after Dr. Dyer resigned as branch chairman.

He said he had delayed announcing that he would be seeking the nomination until he had resigned from the branch committee, and out of respect to the former MP Mr. William McPhee who died recently.

Former PLP candidate for the constituency Mr. Russell announced he would be standing as an Independent and said he would be seeking support from the Independent Supporters for Change group.

He added he would not rule out running as a candidate for a new third political party which is being formed by the four MPs expelled from the PLP with him.

"We need an independent voice," he said.

"There are a lot of people in the community, from Somerset to St. George's who are looking for a positive alternative to the present Government and the PLP."

● A statement from the four Independent MPs said the new party would be fielding candidates in many constituencies in the next general election.

The statement dismissed reports by Radio VSB at the weekend, and ruled out deals or negotiations with any political group in order to win Parliamentary seats.

CSO: 3298/807

BERMUDA

UNION ORGAN COLUMNIST DISCUSSES NATIONHOOD SITUATION

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 31 May 85 p 4

[Text]

IN RECENT years, the words "nation" and "national" have been used with increasing frequency, in reference to Bermuda, by leading politicians and many citizens of Bermuda.

Yet, if we understand the true meaning of the word "nation" and its derivatives, we will find that (like so many myths that plague our society), the reality bears little resemblance to the implied statehood.

Let us then discover the definitions of the words which are so loosely used to describe the status of Bermuda, and then ask ourselves whether they describe truly the situation of our Island today.

The Webster dictionary defines the word "nationalism", in part as: "Devotion to, or advocacy of, national interests, or national unity and INDEPENDENCE (the caps are mine).

In that context, while many Bermudians may be devoted to, or advocates of "national interests" or "national unity", very few are serious advocates of INDEPENDENCE.

The word "nationalist" is defined as: "An advocate of national INDEPENDENCE, unity etc." Again, we must ask ourselves, how many Bermudians, under this definition, can claim to be nationalists?

But what about the definition of a "nation"? Reference to Websters dictionary gives us two main definitions.

They are: "A people, connected by supposed ties of blood, generally manifested by a community of language, religion, customs, etc." and "The body of inhabitants of a country, united under a single INDEPENDENT government, a state."

NO REAL NATIONHOOD

Is our society composed of people "con-

nected by supposed ties of blood"? Well, if we refer to the born black and white Bermudians, then we could answer "Yes".

But then, quite a sizeable number of our citizens — expatriates, status Bermudians and Portuguese — are not "connected" in such a way, with either the born white or the born black Bermudian.

Likewise, though (apart from the Portuguese-speaking community) we may have a common language, we do not all follow the same religious practices or customs.

And, even though we may refer loosely to the "majority of black Bermudians", the truth is that many Bermudians of colour reject their African ancestry, while others are proud of it.

Finally, no one can honestly claim that we are "united" and, though we may have a single government, it is certainly NOT independent. Nor is Bermuda a "state".

The unavoidable truth is that, at this point in time, we are ALL BRITISH SUBJECTS. (Yet, under the recently passed British Nationality Act, many of us cannot claim the rights of British citizens).

Which means that, while many in Bermuda can claim BERMUDIAN citizenship, only a minority of those citizens can also claim BRITISH citizenship as well.

Therefore, until ALL the citizens of this CROWN COLONY are prepared to come together and accept the FULL responsibility of NATIONHOOD, let us stop playing around with words like "nation" and "national".

For, though we may be fooling ourselves, we are certainly NOT fooling the rest of the REAL WORLD!

CSO: 3298/807

BERMUDA

PLP NEWSLETTER URGES USE OF MILITARY TO FIGHT DRUGS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 14 May 85 p 2

[Text]

The Bermuda Regiment should be called out to battle drug pushers on the streets, according to the latest Progressive Labour Party newsletter.

Writing in Party Line, PLP member Miss Cheryl Pooley said the Island's drug problem was so serious that only harsh methods could bring it under control.

"In my opinion we should bring the Regiment out," she said. "We have a drug war on our hands, so station soldiers on every block, on every corner, in every alley and drive them out."

"Extend the rehabilitation programme for this period. This is an emergency and it requires people well-versed in this particular field of medicine. Then we shall really find out how many addicts there are in Bermuda."

Miss Pooley said the Police clampdown on marijuana had only escalated the hard drug problem.

"The Government has stopped one drug in Bermuda — they have largely rid themselves of marijuana pushers," she said. "But that wasn't the major problem. Why else would crime and addiction increase ten-fold if there is no marijuana on the streets? Because it has always been heroin that was our major problem, and now we have cocaine."

"So now that the streets have been cleared of mari-

juana, all one can find are the hard drugs."

The young PLP activist said many frustrated cannabis users were now moving on to cocaine and heroin.

"So those youngsters looking for a joint are confronted time and time again, not with marijuana, but with hard drugs," she said. "As a result we now have young kids selling their bodies to support their habits or their boyfriends' habits. The schools are having increasing problems with hard drug addiction and pushers. Policemen and their families are having their lives threatened. And the streets are no longer safe."

The young PLP activist said decriminalising cannabis for personal use could also hinder cocaine and heroin pushers.

"I believe that marijuana should be decriminalised and that there should be a system under which people found with under an ounce in their home cannot be prosecuted," she said. "Smoking in public should continue to be illegal, with offenders given the same penalties as those caught drinking alcohol in a public, unlicensed place."

PLP Chairman Mr. Alex Scott said he was pleased young members like Miss Pooley were becoming active in the party's affairs.

"We are encouraged that

the younger folk are getting more involved," he said. "The drugs issue is a very important one, and it is heartening to see a youngster taking a stand on the subject."

"But the opinions she expressed are not necessarily those of the party," he hastened to add.

CSO: 3298/808

BERMUDA

SWAN PROMISES ACTION ON DRUGS COMMISSION REPORT

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 85 p 8

[Text]

The Government will act on the Drugs Commission report, but it wants to do so with the minimum of expense, the Premier said this week.

The Hon. John Swan, speaking only days before the critical report had been due to be aired on the floor of the House of Assembly, shunned criticism that the Government has consistently failed to act on such reports.

"The Government will do all it can to deal with this question of crime as it relates to drug abuse, educating the community and involving more people with understanding all the aspects of the drugs problem," he pledged.

"There is action being taken, and it will continue to be taken," said the Premier, who is due to speak at a Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse public meeting on the subject on Wednesday, June 5.

"One has to operate between monetary restraints and manpower availability," said Mr. Swan. "You can't go on indiscriminately spending money."

"You have to recognise, if you create these jobs, you have to find the people to fill them. We are going to try to minimise the requirement to import people, and we are going to try to operate within reason."

He added: "I don't think the problem is to do with money. It is to do with attitudes of law and order."

Mr. Swan outlined some of the report recommendations the Government would be looking at:

- More severe sentencing.
- Rehabilitation programmes.
- Educating the public.

"We have a lot of infrastructure already in existence, so it is not like starting out from scratch."

"The Government has a very strong position. It is going to support the Police in its activity to catch those people who traffic in drugs, and, hopefully, the courts will exercise the present maximum penalties," said Mr. Swan.

"We will look at even more severe penalties, as recommended by the commission. We will set about ensuring that our community programmes are operated at the optimum levels to aid and help those people affected by drugs, and we will ensure there are community educational programmes to make the community, particularly young people, more aware of drugs and their consequences."

The Opposition spokesman on the controversial subject, Mr. Stanley Lowe, said: "I don't think we can afford not to implement a good number of these recommendations."

Mr. Lowe, the Shadow Minister of Health and Social Services, added: "The Government couldn't afford not to act. It's just a question of how soon."

BOLIVIA

GOVERNMENT TERMINATES OIL CONTRACT WITH SHELL

New Conditions Rejected

PY021418 Paris AFP in Spanish 2236 GMT 1 Jul 85

[Text] La Paz, 1 Jul (AFP)--It was officially reported in La Paz today that the Bolivian Government has terminated its contract with the Shell petroleum company. The decision came after Shell's failure to come through with the proposed exploration in northern Bolivia.

The government acted in the wake of a request by the Transnational petroleum company, which asked for new conditions under which to continue drilling exploitation, upon the completion of a 3-year period to seismic work and land exploration.

Company sources reported that Shell started its activities in 1982, making a \$20-million investment and that it planned to invest an additional \$40 million in the well drilling phase.

The communique issued by the government states that beginning today the exploration areas, seized assets, machinery, equipment, surveys, documents, and any other assets of the contracting company will pass into the possession of the state owned Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB).

The communique adds that the proposals made by Shell were rejected because they were juridically inviable, technically inconvenient, and economically unacceptable for the national interests.

In conclusion, the Bolivian regime states that its stand is a nationalist one and one of defense of the nonrenewable natural resources and the nation's inherited resources.

The sites explored by Shell will produce between 3,000 and 5,000 barrels of oil daily beginning in 1988, something which will reportedly prevent Bolivia from importing oil. Shell [was] expected to reach a daily output of 40,000 barrels for export.

Energy Minister Faults Shell

PY031855 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Text] Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Ademar Velardo Ortiz has delivered a detailed report which states that it was the Shell company that decided to terminate its work in Bolivia and that the government simply accepted its petition. He said that Shell sought to ignore its official contract. The company wanted to extend its exploration for 3 years and invest only \$3 million on digging wells. The contract called for \$10 million to be spent on wells.

The Shell company also wanted to impose its demand for a preferential dollar exchange rate, an attitude not in national interests, the minister added.

The attacks that have been made against President Siles regarding this matter are unfair, Velarde said. Therefore, he has asked the president to let him, as head of the hydrocarbons sector, address the issue.

CSO: 3348/786

BOLIVIA

PCB ACCUSES RIGHT OF CAUSING DIVISIONS

PY032025 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Jul 85

[Text] The Political Committee and the Central Committee of the Bolivian Communist Party [PCB] granted a press conference in Congress's Green Room to clear up some internal problems that are endangering the workers movement.

Ramiro Barrenechea Zambrano indicated that it is not just a simple internal problem of the PCB. On the contrary, it is a question of giving our people a political instrument that is capable of providing appropriate leadership, because the surrender of the UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity], which had a partnership with the PCB, has caused serious harm to the masses by apportioning the long developing process of popular power.

The press conference then went into the question and answer stage, when some members of the PCB leadership clearly outlined the position that has been adopted.

[Begin recording] [Barrenechea] There is a minority sector that is headed by Jorge Kolle, Marcos Gomez, Jorge Ibanez and Humberto Ramirez.

[Question indistinct]

[Barrenechea] Jorge Kolle, Marcos Gomez, Jorge Ibanez and Humberto Ramirez. This group has other factions, but it is a matter of structure.

[Question indistinct]

[Barrenechea] It is our belief that, regrettably, the actions of some comrades, including Comrade Simon Reyes, have been, if not compliant, then at least hesitant in the face of the maneuvers of the right and that they are virtually encircled by the apparatus of rightist opportunism that existed even before Congress was elected. This is why we believe that at this time Simon Reyes is a prisoner of the right. [end recording]

An extraordinary congress has been set for 27-28 July. The regional and local committees must submit opinions within the next few days and must also begin to prepare for this congress.

Asked about the position of the majority of the militants after this session of revolutionary recovery and renovation of the PCB, (Barrenechea) answered:

[Begin Barrenechea recording] We cannot talk without erring on the side of [word indistinct], but we are about to outline a position that has just been debated by a majority of the party, because all possibility of debate has been blocked. [as heard].

Moreover, we would like to tell the great majority that during the Fifth Congress there was not only self-criticism, but criticism was also formulated. The congress should have sanctioned those who are harming party unity and those who are causing divisions in the party, such as Jorge Kalle and Jorge Ibanez, who have organized apparatuses that run parallel to the party and middle level management organizations. They are functioning along the line [words indistinct]

We cannot agree with this policy of division that the right is implementing against the party. This is why we speak for the majority, which in the Fifth Congress defined a revolutionary position and carried out a process of self-criticism, both at the political and structural levels. [end recording]

[Barrenechea] concluded saying that the PCB is in a reorganization stage, because it is an asset of the working class.

CSO: 3348/785

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT CONTEMPLATES POLITICAL SUMMIT--La Paz, 28 Jun (EFE)--Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo is contemplating the possibility of calling a meeting of heads of political parties in order to reach an agreement to preserve the electoral process and make sure that elections are held, according to Interior Minister Gustavo Sanchez who added that Siles Zuazo feels that this kind of meeting with the politicians would provide some stability to the transition period which the country is going through due to the approaching elections. Several political leaders have proposed this meeting in view of the atmosphere of social tension prevailing throughout the country due to a variety of strikes and stoppages. The Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) vice presidential candidate accused two Armed Forces commanders of advocating a postponement of the elections scheduled for 14 July. Eudoro Galindo Anze said that these military officers instructed the 7th Army Division to conduct a poll, with a view to postponing the elections. General Jose Pastor Meruvia, commander of the 7th Division admitted that he had received such instructions but added that the Armed Forces will guarantee the electoral process. [Excerpt] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0225 GMT 29 Jun 85]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH GDR--Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Crespo Velasco has signed an agreement with the GDR Government for the promotion of bilateral trade. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Jul 85]

ALGERIAN ENVOY ARRIVES--Mustafa Lacherav, the new Algerian ambassador to Bolivia, on 5 July presented his credentials to President Hernan Siles Zuazo. Lacherav also serves as ambassador to the Peruvian Government. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Jul 85]

SPANISH MILITARY AID--The Spanish Armed Forces have agreed to grant technical assistance to the Bolivian Armed Forces beginning in 1986, PRESENCIA was told. Government sources reported that this agreement was negotiated by the Bolivian ambassador to Spain, Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas. This cooperation will include training for the Bolivian Marine Guard which will travel next year on the Spanish training vessel "Juan Sebastian Elcano." Bolivian officers are to assist in special courses at Spanish military schools, and some Spanish officers will come to Bolivia to counsel the Bolivian military school staff. The program also envisages technical assistance to study and install a river shipyard in Bolivia. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Jun 85 p 3]

TRADE PACT WITH HUNGARY--Bolivia and the Hungarian People's Republic signed a mutual economic cooperation agreement in Budapest today, MTI reported. Bolivian Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Crespo Velasco and Hungarian Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Tibor Melega also signed a consular agreement, according to MTI. Hungary believes that it can export hospital and medical equipment to Bolivia in exchange for Bolivian nonferrous metals, minerals, coffee, tropical fruits, and wool products among other things. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Jun 85 p 8]

HOUSING AGREEMENT SIGNED--The United Nations and Spain signed an agreement with Bolivia for "complete technical aid to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry" aimed at the housing problem in Bolivia. The 2-year project, which is worth \$1,049,632, will begin next August. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA 11 Jun 85 p 7]

PDC, POR COMMENTS, ELECTIONS--In a communique delivered to Panamericana, the Bolivian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] states that it is convinced that the only solution to our deep economic, political, and social crisis will be found within a democratic and constitutional system with the full participation of the popular and majority sectors. The only way to firmly establish our democratic process, it adds, is to hold general elections on the date scheduled by the law. The political parties, the National Electoral Court, and the Bolivian people all understand our need for a national government and congress dedicated to solving our crisis, the communique says. The current electoral process truly shows that formal democracy is far from a reality in Bolivia. The PDC document is signed by its main leaders, Eduardo (Bracamonte) and Hugo Uriona. In another document, the Bolivian Revolutionary Workers Party [POR] states that the little capitalistic development in Bolivia impedes democracy from flourishing because it cannot coexist with hunger, or the deformed pressure exerted over the citizenry, the bribes, the demagoguery, or the fact that about 50 percent of the peasants are not registered in the voting lists. The POR questions whether an elitist democracy, monopolized by the slave owners, is trying to impose its own kind of democracy. It is easy to understand that the results of the elections will not, in any way, reflect the will of the Bolivian people, but will be the exclusive result of the maneuverings of the rightist sectors of the dominating class, the POR document signed by Guillermo Lora says. [Text] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 85]

CSO: 3348/785

BRAZIL

INTERVIEW WITH PT PRESIDENT INACIO DA SILVA

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 19 May 85 p 7

[Interview with Luis Inacio da Silva ["Lula"], national president of the Workers Party [PT], by Hamilton Almeida Filho in Sao Paulo: "Lula Says Government Closes Doors to Worker"; date of interview not given]

[Text] Sao Paulo--"Please, let the New Republic appear soon. What we have now looks just like the old Republic."

At his desk as national president of the PT, at the party headquarters in a mansion in Vila Mariana, Sao Paulo, Luis Inacio da Silva, "Lula," sums up in this phrase everything he feels about the current political and labor situation in Brazil. Caught in the crossfire from cabinet ministers (such as [Industry and Commerce Minister] Roberto Gusmao) and businessmen (such as Luis Eulalio Vidigal), Lula does not appear to be on the defensive and blames the Sarney administration for letting itself be "pushed by the businessmen into a position against the workers." He cites the fact that President Sarney did not receive the CUT [Sole Central Organization of Workers] leaders in Planalto Palace, but did receive the president of SINFAVEA, an employers' organization of the automobile industry, Andre Beer. And he makes a comparison:

"The government continues to have its doors open to businessmen and closed to the workers. With Tancredo it could have been easier for the workers. Without Tancredo, it became easier for the employers."

Lula recalls that he had a meeting with Tancredo Neves on 28 February and that at this meeting he said to the founder of the New Republic: "Reduction of the work week to 40 hours should be decreed by the government to contain unemployment." He says that the businessmen are now trying to use the strike in Sao Bernardo do Campo to strengthen their struggle against government price control and that the government in turn fears the ABC [industrial sections of Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo do Campo and

Sao Caetano do Sul] labor movement because it is afraid of PT competition in the 15 November mayoral elections. A web of deceit, in the view of the national president of the PT.

Lula sees the action of Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto as having been decent so far. And he says that the threats of Minister Roberto Gusmao about using the full force of labor laws are just repetitions of other threats:

"It is the same as the words of Maluf as governor of Sao Paulo in 1980; the same as [former Labor Minister] Murillo Macedo, or of Jarbas Passarinho in 1968, in Contagem. Gusmao would not be talking this way if Tancredo were alive. They don't want to hear that, if a law is unjust, you have to change the law and not try to change society."

Lula asserts that the workers will be able to continue the Sao Bernardo strike for another 20 or 25 days and he does not believe the employers can last that long. Lastly, Lula sets the conditions for the working class to sit down at the table with the government and employers to discuss a social pact: first, to know what the government's proposals are; second, the working class wants to regain the lost wages of the last 20 years; and third, the workers want union autonomy and repeal of the strike law. Concludes Lula:

"If, rather than argue with the employers, we were able to talk with the government and establish the rules of the game, who knows, we might be far more reluctant to go on strike in this country."

The Interview

As given by Luis Inacio da Silva to CORREIO BRAZILIENSE:

[Question] How did you react to the statements of Luis Eulalio Vidigal in Porto Alegre, especially in regard to the action of the church and the Workers Party in the union movement?

[Answer] The statements of Luis Eulalio Vidigal in Porto Alegre to a group of businessmen were a case of either total irresponsibility or total lack of knowledge about the issues. At best, it showed total ignorance of what is going on today in Sao Bernardo do Campo and in the state of Sao Paulo. In the first place, because to try to find a culprit or a strike agitator at this stage of the game is not to believe in the organizing capability of the working class; and in the second place, to have no respect for what is the most highly organized segment of the Brazilian working class and the most combative in the Brazilian labor movement. If Luis Eulalio were to pause for a moment in front of a mirror, he would see that he himself is to blame for the strike--as president of the FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries]. He was aware that the Sao Bernardo workers were organized and that they could achieve their demands. At that time he could have avoided a strike at the negotiating table. And this was attempted 2 months before the date of the strike. For this, he now wants to blame the church, he wants to

blame the PT, he wants to blame God. It seems to me that, at the minimum, he is trying to fool the public.

[Question] In the matter of the metalworkers strike, you would say, then, that the employers are being "inflexible," are seeking a "confrontation"?

[Answer] I would not say that they are eager to involve themselves in a confrontation. I would say simply that the employers, after the freeze of industrial prices by the government, are capitalizing on the demands of the workers to force the government to yield on prices. Businessmen of the automobile and auto parts industries were accustomed to increasing the prices of their products at least every 45 days. And they are now arguing with the government, demanding that the government permit them to pass along [wage] increases to consumers, something that we workers contend that the government should not do. The government should persist in this policy of price control, even though the government uses two weights and two measures. The government is capable of doing--when the blister is squeezed--what it did here in the Sao Paulo bus strikes: grant the increases to the workers, to the fare collectors, to the drivers. And the next day it raises bus fares by 400 cruzeiros, increases subway fares, increases air fares and raises the price of price tags it produces for state enterprises. I don't think such a policy is the policy of a responsible government. If prices are frozen, they should be frozen for everyone, and wage increases for workers must come out of the employers' profits. So I think the employers are arguing, and the government is being pushed against the workers, against the PT. It is a very serious political battle. On one hand, the businessmen want to break the government, demanding flexibility in its economic policy. On the other hand, the employers also want to break the workers because they know that they represent today the most advanced element of the labor movement in Brazil. As for the government, I think it has its eye much more on the mayoral elections and the 1986 elections and it knows that if the Sao Bernardo workers are successful it will be much easier for us in the 1985 elections. It is a very serious political mistake. A strike for economic reasons, such as that of Sao Bernardo, should not be transformed into a pitched political battle as the government and the employers are doing.

Monthly Adjustment

[Question] But who is mixing politics with the strike? Are you saying it is the employers or the government?

[Answer] For the workers' part, we still continue to assert that our strike is for two basic demands. One of them we have already achieved since April of last year: the quarterly [wage] adjustment. The other is an innovation: reduction of the work week to 40 hours. And in this struggle we have demystified many things, such as the assertion that the big companies would not yield to our demands because the small companies would not be able to meet them. We have shown that it is just the opposite: In Sao Bernardo do Campo 66 medium-sized companies made the agreement, they granted a work week of 40 or 44 hours; they all granted a quarterly adjustment of 100 percent [of the cost of living increase]; they gave a 6 percent productivity [bonus]. We even had companies that gave monthly wage adjustments. For the first time the large companies, the multinational companies of the automobile sector, are involved in the negotiations.

[Question] The strike tactic, the so-called "vaca brava" [literally, "bold cow"], was the first thing to cause a government reaction. Can you explain why?

[Answer] I think this government is no better prepared than the other--the former government--to deal with the matter of strikes, although Almir (Pazzianotto) has much experience in dealing with strike issues. Moreover, I think the government as a whole does not yet fully comprehend the significance of a strike for a regime that says it is democratic. Naturally, when we met to declare the strike, we had the objective of dividing the employer class. Get as much as we could out of each firm. The outcome was so good that we made an agreement with 66 firms and now we have 60,000 workers out on strike in 4 companies: Brastemp, Volkswagen, Ford and Mercedes--the big ones. And we can hold out another 20 or 25 days. I don't know if the employers will be able to hold out as long. But don't think we are on strike just to test our strength. We only go on strike after having exhausted all means of negotiation and we are sure that this method that we are using in this strike gives an exact idea to the government of how well the workers are organized. There are a thousand ways to conduct a strike and Sao Bernardo do Campo is merely using one of the many that exist in this world. And this is possible only because there is an aware, well-prepared union. We are now accepting the rules of the game of the automobile industries, who want to play hardball.

[Question] Didn't Robert Gerrity, ex-president of Ford, say before leaving Brazil in April that the problem of the multinationals was not the demands of the workers but other issues with the government?

[Answer] We are finding the declarations of Robert Gerrity before he left Brazil very useful. We have one of the most reliable entities in this country, DIEESE [Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies], which demonstrates clearly that our demands are very small compared with the losses a large company is willing to incur in facing a strike such as this. It is hard for a worker to understand how it is that a company does not mind losing a few trillions of cruzeiros rather than spend a few billion cruzeiros--which is what it would involve to meet the demands of these same workers. This is what characterizes the political plot of both the employer and the government, which do not concern themselves with the economic aspect of the question and try to break the back of the most highly organized union in the Brazilian labor movement.

[Question] The back will not break?

[Answer] We are suffering company pressures that are more modern than those used in 1980. Mainly the dismissal for just cause of hundreds of workers, as a way of intimidating us. "Just cause" means dismissing a worker after 10 years of service because of this strike, without his receiving one cent of severance compensation. But the workers are going ahead with the strike because they contend that these dismissals do not occur only during strikes. During nonstriking periods the number of dismissals is much higher. We have alarming figures: Volkswagen, in 7 years, turned over its entire work force--a turnover rate that enabled them to get rid of 33,000 workers in 7 years. In 1981 the companies fired 16,000 workers; in 1980 they dismissed 10,000. We have figures that prove that during strikes fewer workers are dismissed.

[Question] At this moment, the function of Labor Minister Pazzianotto seems to be on trial. What is the function of the labor minister, according to the workers?

[Answer] There are two ways of judging the behavior of Minister Almir Pazzianotto. In my opinion, it has been very decent. He has not interfered at all in the outcome of the strike. He has not intervened in the labor union. There have been no spiteful threats to the labor movement. However, this is just one aspect, it is a smokescreen in the labor-union question. All labor-union legislation is repressive. The precipitate judgment of a strike by a biased court, even though the [labor?] minister has not intervened in the unions, has not engaged in any brutal act as have previous ministers. The truth is that we are at the mercy of the employers. The minister can call the police, can suspend the grievance committee and suspend union leaders. The fact that the labor minister has not interfered does not mean that we are on equal terms with the employers. We have the state against us, as well as the employers. The state in the person of the military police, in the form of the decision of the Labor Court. The state in the view the press creates of the strike, showing the movement to be aggressive, to be a gang of hooligans.

[Question] What about the social pact?

[Answer] I think the existence of a social pact is possible when the parties are on equal terms, when the parties agree upon how big a slice of the pie they should get, when the boss stops complaining about prices and the worker stops complaining about wages--which is not the case in Brazil. Employers still want the workers to make the sacrifices. The workers, to talk to the government about a social pact, must first know what the government's proposals are. In the second place, they must recover their purchasing power of 20 years ago. In the third place, there must be total union autonomy and strike legislation must be revised. Only after these conditions are met will the workers sit down at the table to negotiate a social pact with the government. If they are not, we are not going to sit at the table, one against two--the boss and the government--which in the end are the same thing. Moreover, we contend that sitting down with the government to discuss its economic policy does not signify just a social pact. It means the right of the largest segment of the population to say what it thinks of the policy of expenditures in the public sector, of investments by the state enterprises, of its export policy, its import policy, because what it does results in a gain or a loss for the working class. And until now we have only been called upon to share in the losses.

[Question] And how about when [Industry and Commerce] Minister Gusmao tells the public that the limit of the strike is the law?

[Answer] This language of Gusmao is no different from the language of Maluf when he was governor of Sao Paulo, using it against us in 1980. It is no different from the language that Murillo Macedo used against us, or that Jarbas Passarinho used against us in 1968 in Contagem. There is no difference. They all said that the limit is the law. This is good for those who are beneficiaries of the law. For us, who are its victims, the limit is the justice of the strike. The limit is the legitimacy of our grievances. And they have become tired of hearing: if the law is unjust you don't have to call the police to comply with the law. You

cannot have this inversion of values. Everyone says that the strike law is unjust, but the government retains it. So it must be in the interests of whoever is in the government. And we cannot continue to accept this.

[Question] It is the goal of the union movement to modify the strike law, to reform the CLT [Consolidated Labor Laws]--but on what terms?

[Answer] What must be established in this country is what already exists in many modern countries. The constitution not only guarantees the worker the right to form labor unions but also the right to strike. It's right there in the constitution: "The workers are guaranteed the right to strike, period." There is no complementary legislation that defines what is the organization of workers in practice, the support of the union's strength. Here in Brazil the law imposes all possible restrictions so that the workers cannot strike and does not impose anything on the employers. Companies dismiss workers as they please, when they please, without any justification to the government or the union. And the workers remain at their mercy. So what we want is equality of treatment. Please, let this New Republic appear soon, because what we have now looks the same as the Old Republic.

[Question] Is there no prospect of a direct dialogue between the workers and the Sarney government? Some day soon, such as you had on 28 February with Tancredo Neves?

[Answer] What you are saying is very important. Last week the leaders of the CUT went to Brasilia to try to speak with Sarney and he did not receive them. Sarney said that issues related to strikes were taken care of by the labor minister. And he did not receive the CUT delegation. The next week, however, he received the president of the SINFAVEA, the Association of Automobile Manufacturers. What does this show? It shows that the government still keeps its doors open for the employers and closed for the workers. And the government should receive us, because it has a lot to hear from the workers. It seems to me it would be prudent for the government to receive the labor leaders and hear what they have to say. Maybe then the government would understand that the position of the employers regarding the strike is, above all, utter nonsense. With Tancredo it would have been much easier. Because Tancredo was a man with great moral authority within the Democratic Alliance.

[Question] Then there is no prospect of having a direct dialogue between President Sarney and the workers?

[Answer] There was an attempt on the part of the workers when they went to Brasilia to seek an audience with the president. On the part of the government, what happened was a refusal of dialogue.

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CSO: 8142/1503

BRAZIL

PDS LEADER VIANA DISCUSSES FUTURE OF PARTY, NATION

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 28 Apr 85 p 8

[Interview with Federal Deputy Prisco Viana, leader of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] in the Chamber of Deputies, by Joao Emilio Falcao and Josias de Sousa in Brasilia: "Prisco Says PDS Not 'At Service' of Government"; date of interview not given]

[Text] The PDS leader, Deputy Prisco Viana, believes his party will take some time to recover from the defeat suffered in the presidential election: "The PDS will need a considerable period to reconstitute its forces, reorganize from the bottom up, to take advantage of the government's inevitable blunders," he says. Prisco, however, quickly makes it clear that "the PDS is not a party at the service of the government," denying the possibility of his party eventually supporting President Sarney. He considers Minister Leitao de Abreu [former chief of the president's civilian household] largely responsible for the collapse of the PDS. "Minister Leitao was a disaster," Prisco charges. Sarney, in his opinion, will face great difficulties in his administration.

[Question] What is the future of the PDS?

[Answer] From what I know about Brazilian political parties, none has had an experience such as that of the PDS, which was the victim of a genuine political tragedy. The dissidents seized their opportunity in the Electoral College and--an event without precedent--led by the president of our party, eventually made the opposition's victory feasible. This bloodletting continued after the election, because there are those who can survive only if they belong to the party in power, to whom the idea of also serving the people in the opposition is not agreeable. But I remain convinced that the PDS is viable, due not only to the organization it still has, but also to the unity it has been achieving among those who remained. In the Chamber of Deputies we are a very significant force, because we have 146 deputies, decisive to the fate of any bill. The PDS, with minor alliances in the Chamber, will be able to prevent approval of a constitutional amendment; in the Senate, it has already done so, alone. It is thus a political force not to be disregarded.

[Question] Was the PDS bloodletting due to the candidacy of Deputy Paulo Maluf?

[Answer] It resulted from the electoral process. The main cause was our lack of party consciousness in this country. And this is malady from which not only the PDS, but the whole Brazilian political-party system, suffers. As a matter of fact, people join parties more in response to immediate and circumstantial objectives than in response to ideological and doctrinal background. Except, of course, for the ideological parties of the Left. The cause of all the disintegration that hit the PDS, but which could happen to other parties as well, is the lack of party consciousness and, above all, of our backwardness in the process of politicizing the people and the elites, due largely to the long period of political inactivity imposed by 21 years of military rule.

[Question] Could the PDS form alliances with Leonel Brizola's PDT [Democratic Workers Party]?

[Answer] We have differences of an ideological nature with the PDT and the PT [Workers Party], but in Congress we can enter into agreements and alliances in regard to particular issues, and we will construct an opposition force capable of preventing approval of constitutional amendments.

[Question] Will there be an agreement about direct elections for president in 1986?

[Answer] It is a question we are examining very closely. What the PDS wants is that direct election become part of the wording of the constitution immediately. We are taking into consideration, above all, the instability of the political process and the fragility of human life. God forbid, but if we should happen to have another accident along the way, we will come face to face with this terrible situation: an indirect election by the Electoral College and a 6-year term of office.

[Question] You worked a long time as secretary general of the PDS, with President Sarney. How would you characterize him?

[Answer] Whenever I am asked about President Sarney, with whom I associated for 6 years, I begin by stressing his human qualities: extremely charming, well mannered, very agreeable company, profound human sensitivity, very religious, dedicated to family and I would say, in common parlance, a good talker. I consider him ready for this occasion. He is familiar with the nation's situation and has a very keen political sense. But I think he will experience moments of difficulty, because he will have to administer a very disparate political system, from the ideological point of view. He will have to take note of political phenomena, the motivations of public demonstrations and the nature of the aspirations that are being released, composing the social structure. Sarney must act quickly, to prevent vacillation from resulting in a power vacuum, which could be filled by the despair of the people, which would be extremely grave for the nation.

[Question] Won't the PDS be able to help him?

[Answer] The PDS is not a party at the service of the government. It is at the service only of democracy and constitutional rule. We shall work for political tranquillity and social peace.

[Question] Within the PDS there is a group that questions your leadership and seems to be ready to support Sarney...

[Answer] When I spoke to you of consolidating the unity of what remains of the PDS--and what has remained is not negligible--I don't deny the existence of a group that went over to the government, a group allied with Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes--about a dozen persons. We are making an effort to bring these deputies back to the fold and we will have to get along with them. This is not an unprecedented event: in 1950, Getulio Vargas, using the technique of divide and govern--now used by Tancredo Neves--put a prominent UDN [National Democratic Union] figure in the government, making then-Senator Joao Cleofas his minister of agriculture. A group of deputies known as the "clean-slate bloc" gathered around him. But this did not result in the UDN's losing its unity and its identity as the opposition party. Suffice it to recall the group of Carlos Lacerda, Adauto Lucio Cardoso, Bilac Pinto, Aliomar Baleeiro and that after 3 years President Vargas was driven to suicide. But the dissident group appears to be larger; there are nearly 30 deputies. They seem to think the party is at the service of Paulo Maluf... It is an unsustainable argument, used in the absence of anything more convincing, to justify switching parties. Deputy Paulo Maluf is still the principal leader of the PDS, if only because of his recent candidacy for the presidency. This does not mean that he is the party's only leader. There are others, such as Senator Amaral Peixoto, Jair Soares, Joao Durval, Jutahy Magalhaes, Luiz Viana, Jarbas Passarinho, Joao Castelo, Lucidio Portela, Virgilio Tavora and many others. The motivation of this nonconforming group is above all a desire to support the government. They perceive more advantages in participating in the government than in being in a party that has the duty to providing opposition. As leader, I can say that I have never yet had any sort of interference from Deputy Paulo Maluf, or from persons associated with him, for adopting this or that behavior.. In all fairness to Paulo Maluf, he has never interfered in the leadership, and puts himself on an equal footing with the other deputies.

[Question] If the move to hold presidential elections in 1986 prevails, the PDS will be the only party without a candidate for president of the republic. The PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] has Ulysses Guimaraes, the PFL [Liberal Front Party] has Aureliano Chaves; the PDT, Leonel Brizola, and the PT, Luis Inacio (Lula) da Silva. If the main leader of the PDS continues to be Paulo Maluf, would the PDS consider a coalition with any other party?

[Answer] In the game of politics you must not put all your cards on the table. When we are willing to discuss the 2-year term of office it is because we are not able to evaluate the unfolding of events that marked recent political incidents. In my judgment, which may not be that of the whole party, the PDS will not recover in the short run. It will need a considerable period to rebuild its forces, to reorganize from the bottom up, gain a better position in public opinion, in order to take advantage of the government's inevitable mistakes. I believe that the PDS, even in the municipal election that we will have this year, has very limited possibilities. However, we again will have coalitions and there is nothing to prevent the PDS from making coalitions, in either a possible presidential election in 1986 or in this year's municipal elections. The only coalition that is impossible is one that is ideologically incompatible, such as the PDS with the Communist Party.

[Question] The doctrinal guidelines of the PDS were laid down by the then-president of the organization, Jose Sarney, who today is president of the opposition, which is now in power. What is the ordinary citizen to make of this situation?

[Answer] During the presidential campaign, in October, when the rush of PDS members to the side of what was then the opposition was at its height, a diplomat from an important European country expressed to me his difficulty in interpreting these events. He asked me: What is the meaning of all this party switching? He said it was difficult for him to understand because in his country there have been only two cases of party switching in the last 50 years. We in Brazil have had very brief experiences with democracy. The parties that lasted the longest in Brazil were those that came into being with the end of the Vargas dictatorship and that were abolished by President Castello Branco, through Institutional Act No. 2. This was a grievous error, because since then we have not been able to set up a stable political framework. This is why we are witnessing this wild fluctuation in Brazilian party politics, which never was stable.

[Question] The PDS has changed its rhetoric greatly; for instance, it used to support the economic policy developed by [Planning] Minister Delfim Netto and now it is asking for adjustment of the minimum wage greater than the change in the INPC [National Consumer Price Index]...

[Answer] This is a time for change and self-criticism. The PDS was never a party to the government. Like the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance], the PDS was the instrument used by President Figueiredo to maintain his positions in Congress. At no time did the PDS formulate any type of policy. So we cannot be held responsible for the economic and social policies formulated by the governments for which we provided parliamentary support. But now the PDS has achieved freedom and no longer has owners. It has achieved freedom to advocate its doctrine and gain victory for its ideas.

[Question] Didn't the PDS complain? You said that the PDS regained its freedom, but this is a personal achievement.

[Answer] The PDS members complained; it's just that they weren't heard. I was secretary general of the PDS for 4 years and I have several votes of disagreement recorded in the minutes in regard to positions of the government. I was opposed to delegating to President Figueiredo authority to coordinate the presidential succession, because I felt the party was renouncing its highest mission, which was to handle politics and, above all, to conduct the presidential succession. But we were a party subjected to a process of automatic alignment to the will of the government. And not always to that of the government as a whole, but of Minister Leitaó de Abreu, who was the one who interfered the most in party affairs.

[Question] And Minister Leitaó is not a politician...

[Answer] In that area, he was a disaster. We owe to him the fact that the PDS lost its absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies, with the law that he imposed upon us, without discussion, for linked voting from top to bottom, which favored the PMDB enormously and left the PDS, which had had an ample margin in the Chamber, with a slim majority, thus losing much maneuvering room.

[Question] Brazil is emerging from 20 years of active participation by the military in power. Is this participation a thing of the past or is there a threat of its return, if the political class is unable to solve the nation's problems?

[Answer] Interference by the military in Brazilian politics is history. Unfortunately, it always happens. For the present, from what I hear, the military are determined to stick to their professional duties exclusively. This does not mean that they have eliminated the possibility of further interventions, as the history of Brazil records their constant and important influence on the nation's political life. Naturally, this will depend upon the extent to which the politicians are more or less competent to sustain the democratic process and maintain civilian power.

[Question] A few days ago, you were asking reporters: "Who knows what will happen in Brazil now?" Do you expect many expressions of popular frustration?

[Answer] I think the first challenge for President Sarney is consolidating the unity of his political structure, the Democratic Alliance. As we know, this is no small challenge. It requires the president to exercise all his acknowledged competence and skill in political negotiations. He must respond promptly to social demands, so that frustration does not give way to despair, to disenchantment, from which much worse consequences would result.

[Question] To what point will the legacy of President Tancredo Neves help or harm the Sarney government? To what point will the PMDB use the figure of Tancredo Neves to control the Sarney government?

[Answer] There are historical examples of the use of phenomena of this nature, for the purpose of arriving at electoral results. There is no doubt that in recent years there has never been anyone in Brazilian politics who has generated such expectations and such hopes as has President Tancredo Neves. Clearly, for a long time the emotional influence will be an ingredient of the political process. But I don't believe there is any desire to deliberately exploit the death of President Tancredo Neves or his prestige for electoral purposes. The people's expression should be used only to support execution of President Tancredo Neves' ideas and his government proposals.

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CHILE

MINISTERS OF ECONOMY, STATE DEFEND UF CONCEPT

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 31 May 85 p 6

[Article by Antonio Salgado and Humberto Guerra, special correspondents]

[Text] The government will not side step the Unidades de Fomento [Development Units] problem, said Economy Minister Modesto Collados, but he stated that there can be no solution by eliminating the UF concept because the country would be the big loser.

Collados talked to the press at the end of a meeting he held with representatives of the private sector in Antofagasta. Also present at the meeting were the ministers of Public Works and of Mining, the director of ODEPLAN and the executive vice president of CORFO. Also participating in the session was the Under Secretary General of the Interior Ministry, Colonel Carlos Krumm.

The Secretary of State said that the Economy Ministry is studying the UF Concept and that this task is being carried out in Santiago, but he said that in no event would this result in its elimination.

He admitted that some particular cases are presently being studied, with special regard to those of lower incomes in which this readjustability has been especially onerous. "Those special cases have been studied, have been resolved and are still being studied, particularly with regard to mortgage debts," Collados said.

He said the purpose is to "maintain this concept of readjustability that is inherent in the Development Units because it is the great safeguard for the Chilean people, particularly in the social security system."

"We now have an absolutely solid social security system," the Secretary of State emphasized, adding that every Chilean who saves with his labor then has a capital which he will claim at the time he gets his retirement pension, and that he is getting two or three times more out of this than under the old system."

The Minister said that "if we permit the disappearance of this guarantee which means that these savings are readjustable then we would be against them. This is so in the case of savings because with regard to debts it would also be

completely regressive to allow the Development Units to disappear, since five percent of the debtors hold 82 percent of the debts. In other words, a small number of big debtors would be those most greatly benefited."

In passing, the Secretary of State recalled that the country as such has debts in dollars and thus cannot make repayment in a devalued currency.

12856

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CHILE

'ECONOMIA Y SOCIEDAD' LAUDS APPOINTMENT OF BUCHI

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 May 85 p B-1

[Text]--"The appointment of Hernan Buchi as Minister of Finance marks the end of the period of confusion in economic leadership that began with the crisis of 1982 and that completed its cycle with the failure of the brief populist experiment." So says an analysis by the magazine 'ECONOMIA Y SOCIEDAD' directed by former minister Jose Pinera.

In its latest, May, edition 'ECONOMIA Y SOCIEDAD' said that "after the profound economic crisis that the country has lived through in the last three years, and considering especially its legacy of internal and external debt, it is not surprising that so many Chileans should be wondering about the 'viability' of the Chilean economy, that is to say about its capacity to generate sustained production growth in the future. However, the mere fact that persons who make important decisions in the fields of business and government should harbor such concerns, which they undoubtedly spread around them, negatively conditions expectations and is an important obstacle to the economic development of the country."

"Any objective analysis in this matter should start out by recognizing that the change in world economic conditions during the last decade has been devastating for Chile," it said, remarking that due to the violent decline in the terms of trade and the rise in world interest rates the country was deprived of \$42 billion between 1974 and 1983, an amount equivalent to twice the Chilean external debt."

"If this crisis had struck the arthritic Chilean economy of the 1960s it might have brought about the disintegration of the country," said 'ECONOMIA Y SOCIEDAD.'

Operationally Healthy

According to the magazine, "although the consequence of the crisis was to leave the Chilean economy financially sick, the modernizations of the last 12 years have enabled it to become operationally sounder than it has ever been. The appointment of Hernan Buchi as Minister of Finance in February marks the end of the period of confusion in economic leadership that began with the crisis of 1982 and that completed its cycle with the failure of the brief

populist experiment. The military regime made a definitive decision to maintain a system of a social market economy, thus inaugurating a four-year period of stability in the global economic market."

Lower Tariffs By Half

'ECONOMIA Y SOCIEDAD' also argues for the definition of an export strategy, saying it is in favor of reducing tariffs from 30 to 15 percent. "If an export strategy is promptly defined, especially necessary is a reduction of the tariff rate from 30 percent to half that level, together with a compensatory devaluation, and from then on tariffs should only be modifiable by law. An internal thrust would thus be added to the stimulus that the reestablishment of foreign exchange equilibrium will mean, so as to achieve the goal the country requires of doubling exports in six years (to \$7.3 billion in 1990). This dual effect of an efficient substitution of imports and growth of exports would allow growth rates of five percent a year and at the same time would produce balance of trade surpluses on the order of \$1.5 billion by the end of this decade. In this way - assuming the reduction of the external debt through the market and assuming a reduction of the pressure that the American budget deficit imposes on international interest rates - all the interest on the foreign debt could be covered."

After expressing its support for the latest measures taken by the new economic team, among which is included the modification in the system for readjusting pensions, the magazine headed by Pinera says "all the foregoing allows an affirmative response to the concern about the viability of the Chilean economy. However, there are two key tasks that the economic team must fulfil in order to consolidate that positive trend: solve the financial problem once and for all and accelerate the reduction in size of the state as entrepreneur."

In any event, it concluded, "it is time to bury pessimism, to believe in the country, and to get down to work again. The first to change their attitudes will be the first to prosper."

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CHILE

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ENERGY INVESTMENT PROJECTIONS--Chile plans to make investments of \$2.030 billion dollars in the energy sector in the next three years, basically in electricity, coal and petroleum. This information was provided by the executive secretary of the National Energy Commission, Sebastian Bernstein, who said that the National Petroleum Company will invest next year about \$130 million in exploration work in Magallanes. Bernstein said that as regards electricity, \$230 million will be invested this year, \$215 million in 1986 and \$180 million in 1987. As for coal, plans call for an investment of \$30 million this year, \$45 million in 1986 and \$30 million in 1987. It is also planned to invest \$350 million in methanol gas in the period and \$400 million in fertilizers. He also said that the country currently produces 47 percent of its petroleum requirements. He noted, however, that the trend is downward and that it is therefore necessary to search for substitute fuels. He added that the country presently consumes five million tons of petroleum annually while production comes to 40,000 barrels a day. Sebastian Bernstein said that foreign investment is being sought in this area since oil exploration is very risky and requires a lot of capital. He added that several countries are now operating with these "risk contracts." He also reported that legislative committees are currently studying a plan to authorize the use of natural gas by users in Region XII. The plan provides for application of a tax for this purpose that would be paid once a year. It favors transportation. [Text] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 29 May 85 p 9] 12856

FUELS SUPERINTENDENCY CREATED--The creation of the Superintendency of Electricity and Fuels was made official yesterday with the publication in the Official Gazette of Law 18,410. The entity has as its purpose the inspection and supervision on the fulfilment of laws and regulations and of technical standards on the generation, production, storage, transportation and distribution of liquid fuels, gas and electricity. In this law, which comes into force 23 June 1985, it is established that the entity created is the legal successor to the Superintendency of Electric Services and Gas. The new Superintendency will act as a functionally decentralized service, connected to the government through the Ministry of Economy, Development and Reconstruction. Among the responsibilities assigned by the law to the Superintendency of Electricity and Fuels the following stand out among others: granting of provisional concessions for gas-producing plants, electric energy-producing plants, electricity sub-stations, lines to transport and distribute electric energy; issuing reports on applications for permanent concessions in the areas cited above; requiring that concessionaires maintain the quality of the services they provide within the

legal standards in force; warning, fining and even administrating the service provisionally at the concessionaire's expense if the quality of a public service distributing energy resources is repeatedly deficient; deciding on claims between or against private parties, consumers and owners in any questions deriving from the legal or regulatory bodies the fulfilment of which it is responsible for inspecting; adopting temporarily the measures it considers necessary for public safety and to safeguard the rights of concessionaires and consumers, to which end it may demand the aid of the police forces.
[Text] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 23 May 85 p 9] 12856

CSO: 3348/732

COLOMBIA

CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON NATIONAL ISSUES

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Jun 85 pp 1-3

[Interview with Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, National Participation presidential candidate, by Jose Fernandez Gomez on the Caracol program "Celebrity of the Week" on 2 Jun 85]

[Excerpt] [Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, it has been said for many years that you are a learned man, that you have all the problems of the country in your head. However, there are people who indicate that in-depth statements were now expected of you in your campaign but they are missing from your public speeches. Do you want to say something concrete about this observation?

[Answer] I already have a long career in politics and I have been outspoken. I chose two basic occupations: journalist where one has to express opinions on all the problems every day; and parliamentarian where one also has to speak out on public problems. I feel I have spoken out. I have given my opinion more than any other person in public life except perhaps Dr Carlos Lleras. Therefore, I now have the problem of not repeating myself but proposing solutions. Almost everything I do leans toward seeking a solution. I don't stop to merely analyze the causes of the situations we are experiencing.

[Question] I have to tell you that not everyone understands that you are presenting solutions. For example, one political commentator wrote this about you recently: Solutions are expected from the National Participation candidate. He reproached you for not presenting them. To a certain extent, you would be opposing the Betancur government. Is that really what stops you?

[Answer] No, absolutely not. That has even been discussed with the president. A candidate at any given time can tell a crowd that it is necessary to pave a street. That could mean that the current government has not paved it. Since that frequently happens in the world today, Belisario and I have dismissed it. I don't have any problem proposing solutions, trying to be in tune with the great change that is occurring in the country.

Security and Change

[Question] I have heard many people express the desire that you become president of the republic because they think you could end many of the

manifestations of insecurity that have impunity right now. Others express the fear that this situation is already irreversible. What is your opinion, within the apparent limitation of agreeing with the government?

[Answer] It is necessary to reestablish security in the country. That is an objective of the current government but, by necessity, must also be the basic objective of the next administration. That is a commitment that we will acquire. It is also a direction that I like. I have been an institutionalist, I like change, change fascinates me. It seems to me that the beautiful part of change is being able to do it within institutional continuity. Therefore, I have not been a revolutionary. Revolution is too easy. No commitment is acquired; only disagreement with what exists is expressed. What is constructive, what it seems to me that the public is asking, is that I be capable of handling this. To handle it, it is necessary to keep the present in mind. However, they have hired me so that the future function, not the present. There are people responsible for the present and I respect that. I am dedicated to the future.

Present and Future

[Question] Your phrase seems very important to me and I am going to ask for an explanation. It interests me: What the people want is that I make the future function. This present is not a present from which you can break away. The conservative party in which you have a long tradition is openly supporting the government. Can you break away from the present?

[Answer] No, of course not. But I have no reason to convert my candidacy into a co-government. I have said that several times. The present interests me because it is the foretaste of the future. What I am saying is elemental. The present also interests me because there is an immense amount of change in the air. Things are not the same every day. That is true. The country is not the same today as it was a few years ago. It would not be a good policy to take the country back to what it was a decade or two ago or even 4 years ago. That would not be an attractive policy. What is attractive is to institutionalize what is happening. That is a beautiful task for the next administration.

Pacification

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez, there are those who say that since the truce was signed with several guerrilla groups, the balance toward peace has been very positive. Others maintain that during this time insecurity has increased enormously, the citizens who work have been threatened and armed confrontations continue to this very day. What is your balance, your view of this situation?

[Answer] I tend not to form one because I don't want to interfere in President Betancur's attempted pacification of the guerrillas. All the goodwill in the country, all the resources, all the legal mechanisms have been poured into this. The hand has been extended. This is very open, very risky and also very costly. I don't deny that it will be costly but it does not seem to me that it is time to stop halfway down the road to analyze the cost-effectiveness

of this effort toward pacification before it achieves concrete objectives. It would be unforgivable to the Colombians, after having done all we have done, if we hasten to cut the film before the end, before reaching a definite conclusion.

[Question] Speaking of a conclusion, there are people who do not clearly see that a conclusion is being reached. Do you believe there is a way to stop the armed groups from pressuring in their own way to hinder the action of traditional politicians?

[Answer] Yes, because we are in a situation of transition, tolerance based on the Constitution and the laws--pardon and amnesty. This means that the rigor of the legal system is not applied in these cases. However, everything comes to an end. The circumstances of transition cannot be permanent because the institutional system of the country would deteriorate. We have said that the pardon was a final gesture of public-spiritedness toward the rebel forces. The integral effect of all the laws will return now. The laws cannot be considered repressive. If the law were repressive, I would advocate changing it. However, if the law is considered repressive by the mere fact of being a law and what is wanted is no law, we cannot tolerate that based on any type of pluralism or political philosophy.

National Participation

[Question] One phrase that you just said seems to me to respond to your spirit: transition, periods of transition cannot be permanent. Apropos of my last question, I want to emphasize this. The minister of government repeats: "Guerrilla strongholds will not be permitted. The truce has to lead to the deactivation of the subversive organizations and their demobilization or extinction." This agrees with your opinion that those situations are transitional and cannot be permanent. However, the reality proclaimed by the leaders themselves who accept the truce is that the rebel organizations have not been demobilized. They do not promise to demobilize them. Do you see possible formulas to achieve this on the horizon?

[Answer] That is a problem between the minister and the guerrillas. That is just what is said. You know that the minister of government is talkative. He also writes a lot, a special literature that is hard to understand. I don't want to get into that controversy. Summarizing my philosophy, you said that changes or transitions must not be permanent. I think they should be. What should not be permanent is institutional vacillation. I love change. The next administration has to change many things. My proposal to the country is that I feel traditionalist enough to be able to make a formidable institutional change without revolutionary actions that destroy more than a poor people like Colombia can afford. There must be change, but institutional change, without deaths, change without arms. That is the participation I propose: that we participate in the appraisal of resources and projects and then in their execution. This is different than what is occurring in Colombia. It is a democracy of representation, not participation. Therefore, I want national participation. To us it is not enough to elect a representative of the people to be president of the republic or to elect a senator every 4 years who is also a

representative of the people. We are interested in the people participating. That is a complete philosophy. Using the Constitution in effect, we give the people an opportunity to participate more often. I have proposed the election of mayors, for example, for that reason.

[Question] In a recent speech, you said that peace should not be only for those who were or are armed rebels but for all Colombians. One asks: Does candidate Gomez have a formula to achieve that security for everyone?

[Answer] Well, at times efforts become distorted when they confine themselves to episodes of resistance. An effort to pacify the country quickly becomes an effort to pacify a lot of guerrillas. It is possible that the number of guerrillas has increased a little since the truce but numerically they are not a significant part of the public. Since I do not concede representativeness to people merely because they are armed, I feel that the representation of the people is in the hands of those who have been capable of winning popular support through elections. It is the democratic system in effect in Colombia and we want it to remain in effect with the modalities of participation that I propose.

"National Agreement"

[Question] A moment ago, you alluded very specifically to the literary style of the minister of government. The latest on what is called the price of peace are the statements made by the government through the minister. A document addressed to the parties states the need that they collaborate in political and social reforms. Dr Gomez, do you have well-defined limits for concessions so that the subversives stop being subversives?

[Answer] It is a very confusing document. It should have been taken back right away. The way it is written is contrary to the Colombian democratic system to which the minister of government himself belongs. I believe the bases he establishes there assume that Colombian democracy does not exist, that there is exclusivism here and no freedom of the press. There are a number of false assumptions that seem to be dictated from abroad. Based on that, he asks for a national agreement as if the political parties had no social sensitivity unless it was imposed by force. I do not accept that. It is a literary statement that is beneath consideration. Anyway, it is a digression.

[Question] Well, if it is beneath consideration and a top-level meeting of the leaders of the two parties is being planned to study the document, is candidate Gomez' opinion taken into account?

[Answer] I don't know if they take it into account or not. It is an opinion, let us say, on the literature of the document. On the other hand, I am an ardent advocate of agreements, of national agreement, not to solve the problem of a few armed groups but to solve the problem of the Colombian people, the problem of poverty, misery, lack of productivity, the fact that we cannot create jobs. I proposed an agreement to see how we handle the commitments we acquired with the IMF. Let them consult the liberals and the other forces, but not necessarily because the minister of government says so.

[Question] That document addressed to the leaders of the parties states: "The dispute must deal with the design of new channels of political expression for social sectors that cannot participate today with decision-making power." This could be interpreted as that the current democratic way of municipal councils, assemblies, a chamber and senate is not enough for the functioning of the democracy as this government understands it. Do you interpret it that way?

[Answer] Of course. There is no other way to interpret it. It seems to me that it is a false statement. It is conceived as if it were a Central American country, an Iron Curtain country.

Institutional Changes

[Question] Dr Gomez, it has always been said here that it is necessary above all to defend the institutions. The retired military say that, the politicians say it. It is necessary to defend the institutions. Now it seems that the government itself says that the institutions are not satisfactory. It is necessary to change them or invest others as channels of the new democracy.

Do you see clearly what the necessary changes in the institutions might be?

[Answer] I have always proposed them and have achieved them. I made a great constitutional amendment in 1979 and it was put into practice. All the justice system was restructured, district attorneys were created, the National Council of the Judicature was created and the congressional norms were amended. We could have proposed another set of amendments to the Constitution.

Unfortunately, that great reform that was in effect a little more than a year was wiped out by the Supreme Court because it found a defect in form. I no longer remember what it was that they alleged. Anyway, it collapsed and, of course, we remain without justice and we remain without other things that are needed in the country. It is necessary to continue attempting change, not necessarily changing the laws and the Constitution.

I think that the planning that we put into that constitutional amendment was very good. To a certain extent, it was coercive. I was not afraid of that.... They told me that I had become a socialist, that I had abandoned the libertarian principles of the conservative party.

It seems to me that it is necessary to harmonize the two things. There can be a government of planning with democratic participation by all the sectors with or without that constitutional amendment. It was obligatory. What I would do from the government is voluntary planning stressed by the government.

[Question] What does voluntary mean, Dr Gomez?

[Answer] Voluntary means that the president would do the planning, not forced by a constitutional mandate but as development of his own policy.

Electoral Campaign

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez, part of the activity of your campaign is aimed at winning over people and possibly voters within the ranks of the liberal party. I understand that this is what your propagandists call national participation. If the liberals already have a variety of candidates--one from the government, another from younger forces, another from the left--will there still be liberals whose votes might lean toward Alvaro Gomez?

[Answer] I think so because, to a certain extent, I represent an element of security for all the liberal groups because I am indifferent. Not indifferent, but I am neutral to them. I believe that I can offer them a possibility for participation without feeling compelled to solve their own internal problems for bureaucratic reasons. I think I am seeking liberal votes and I am doing very well with the liberals. I live surrounded by them. They bring me suggestions. However, I also am working the independents. I have not really discovered who the independents are but I like them. I like the critical attitude of the independents. I was born a conservative like the majority of Colombians were born into a party. That seems good to me but an independent who dares challenge that custom of the partisan birth of Colombians attracts my attention. I like to respond to those people because it is a challenge, because they stimulate you to propose things more than the members of the political parties do. What I am seeking is participation not only by the liberals who stimulate me a lot but also, and mainly, by the independents.

Future: The Offer

[Question] Speaking of independents, observers of the political scene seem to agree that there is a mass of young people who can vote but who do not feel conservative or liberal. If they vote, they will vote for the one who presents attractive plans to them. What do you offer or will you offer especially to those sectors of young, or perhaps not so young, people who are skeptical about politics?

[Answer] I offer them the future. I say this so tersely because it is a proposal that includes a lot of administrative technology. We cannot continue the lack of productivity of the Colombian economy because the young are not going to fit in the country. Why did a boy study if at the end when he is an engineer, he graduates and there are no new enterprises? If there are no new enterprises because there is no development, then he has no opportunity to work. What I offer to the youths is not only a secure future which is difficult enough but, especially, a future in expansion. It might soon be easier to achieve it. The youths should like a future in expansion. If I were at the university and I saw a country subjected to a dormant economy, the effort to graduate, to study, to be useful to society would be diminished by the dark and gloomy prospects. If at the university I saw a country in expansion, then I would strive for a diploma.

Development

We can all put up with expansion although, naturally, there will be risks. That is the change I like: big numbers, an end to underdevelopment. If this

is an undeveloped country, what can one propose to the people who are going to live in it in the future? Development. That is logical.

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez, when you speak of a country with an obvious lack of economic productivity, when you say that the expansion of production is necessary, you are saying very pretty things. Perhaps they sound too much like electoral promises. The reality of the country is that recent governments have not been able to do it because circumstances prevented them. As a formula, it is common sense. Do you have a secret formula to be able to make the economy produce, an economy in expansion?

[Answer] Of course. Look how you put me up against the wall. I like that because I can make a claim. I proposed that the country invest the international reserves that the coffee bonanzas gave us instead of submitting to savings disciplines that were unproductive. We would create new industries and new exports and have factories and job opportunities.

The country said no and I accepted that result. My proposal was not accepted but I was not wrong. If we would have invested them as I proposed in great development plans instead of keeping the reserves unproductively to spend later when the revenue was gone and thus remain in the same situation we were in 12 years ago, the country would have completely different prospects today than it has now. They did not let me develop the policy that I proposed.

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez, the word development has come to your lips repeatedly during these 12 years. You were branded with a new word in the Colombian vocabulary, "developmentalist." Alvaro Gomez is the inventor of developmentalism. There are still newspaper commentators opposed to you today who say that Alvaro Gomez returns with his developmentalism. I am not going to ask you what developmentalism is because I think I understand it but why do you think development became a bad word?

[Answer] Well, you think you understand what developmentalism is and I really don't know what it is. That word has been used by people who I don't think know what it means. What I have said, developmentalism or not, is that the country has to make an effort to end poverty. That is not achieved by vegetating, waiting for a fairy godmother or a miracle, an angel from heaven to change the Colombian situation for us. One has to concentrate energy on certain points of the economy to seek ways to propel it forward through a concerted effort. I put the word concerted in the Constitution in a concerted and planned effort not to waste energy.

We must take that leap toward progress. In the last century, it was called progress. Victor Hugo who will be 100 years old spoke of progress. More recently, development has been used to say the same thing. The Pope supported me. The Pope says that development is the new name for peace. That is where I am.

[Question] Then the men who use development against you did not know but they thought it was bad?

[Answer] I think so. It seems bad to them but it does not seem so bad to me. Since I don't know how they define it, I don't bother to refute it.

Problem of Guerrillas

[Question] Dr Gomez, there is some concern now about the methods of proselytism that the subversive groups are using. I am sure you just revealed publicly that you don't think that the traditional parties can be displaced by these new forces. As to these new systems of attracting votes, camps in urban areas, rural areas and even in large towns under the influence of former guerrillas, will it be necessary to resign ourselves to them?

[Answer] What has been seen so far in new methods is not a new publicity technology. What is being seen in those new methods is that they all imply that the person who uses them can be armed, visibly or not. It is a new factor like the problem of the kidnappings that entail a massive transfer of very important economic resources from the area that abides by the law, that we consider honest, toward the areas that break the law.

That is the most important phenomenon of the new methods, what you call the new political methods. There is a real part. The people really are armed and the Armed Forces have not been effective so far in disarming them. There is another part that is psychological. When the people see a guerrilla, they immediately assume he is armed or unarmed. There is a psychological part that will surely disappear.

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez, some political observer, a parliamentarian, has clamored recently for a great bipartisan movement to adopt a common position facing the serious situation of chaos, even possibly anarchy. Do you think that type of new agreement for a National Front is viable?

[Answer] Yes, I think there must always be agreements. We formed the National Front; it was a majestic experiment. It has been used as an example throughout the world. They are still studying it now as a foretaste of modern political methods. We are very proud of it. We made peace with it; we are peacemakers. In other words, we already know how to make peace. Since we are very proud of that, we believe that the spirit of the National Front should continue. There is no problem that we will reach an unusual agreement but a permanent agreement which is what we want to put into practice as a political system.

Reasons for Optimism

[Question] My question carried something more, Dr Gomez: the possibility of a National Front that even reached a possible alternation in the presidency. That is, the country is so bad that it might be urgent to return to what your father, President Laureano Gomez, did with Dr Lleras Camargo?

[Answer] No, I don't think so. It seems to me that there are visible signs of a growing anarchy that are worrisome because there are situations that have gotten out of the hands of the authorities and have transcended the legal

framework to which we Colombians were accustomed. I am optimistic in principle. The economic situation, for example, is very bad in the short term and the situation of insecurity is very bad in the short term. However, if one analyzes the conditions of the country, they are not so bad. We have the way to bring this country out on the other side. If one thinks about what is happening to the economy, he finds that coffee continues to be the major export. We all know it but we do not emphasize this. It is the only basic product in the world that has a regulated market. That is a very great political-economic asset. The other cartels that were formed to defend basic products like steel, oil and sugar all collapsed. Meanwhile, we have a coffee pact in which consumers and producers participate. That is wonderful. That is an asset that we do not weigh but I think we have our guarantee here to get out on the other side.

Another favorable condition is that the country does not have an energy crisis. Most of the countries have energy crises and their economic policy consists in ending or getting around that crisis. We suddenly discover gas, we discover oil, we discover coal and we are going to be energy exporters. That is another great privilege. I think there are other candidates who do not believe in coal. I have studied this a lot, I have heard all the pessimistic hypotheses. Assuming that oil prices go down, it is always better to have oil than not to have it. This could mean that coal prices will go down. Our coal has such qualities and is so accessible to the surface and with a modern railroad that if coal is consumed in the world, that coal will have to be Colombian. All that is good. I can handle that. That is what I call the future functioning.

[Question] Dr Gomez, the economic measures that the government is taking are unquestionably necessary and urgent but they bring consequences that greatly affect the popular sectors. Don't you think that this could hurt you, the conservative candidate of National Participation but essentially conservative, if they saw you as the personification of the continuity of your party in power?

[Answer] I don't think so because, in the first place, those measures are the only ones that have been proposed. There are people who like them or don't like them but no one has proposed anything else. There is no other policy. I have been attentive. I insist that they ask the other parties for other solutions than this discipline in public expenditures and the handling of the foreign resources that arise from the need to reestablish the foreign front and end the fiscal deficit. No one has proposed anything different. The people do not like remedies; remedies are generally bitter. One asks a child: Do you like this remedy? He is going to say no. What about this other remedy? Not that one either. You cannot ask a child: Do you want to remain sick? The child does not understand those things. What is serious is that this happens at the parliamentary level where that big child says: I don't like the remedy; I don't like the remedy. He does not dare say later: I will remain sick.

[Question] How did we say this to the popular classes, to the people affected? If the child is from a well-to-do family, then the child survives. However,

we said to the very affected popular classes: Look, the remedy is absolutely necessary and has to be.

[Answer] The Colombian people are more mature than the child I used in the example. What is happening is not the fault of the current government. We have a fiscal crisis, the fiscal crisis comes mainly from that tendency toward state interventionism and magnifying the functions of the state which was the policy put into practice contrary to my proposals 12 years ago. I think the state should not be so big because it is very expensive. A poor people like Colombia cannot pay the expenses of the state.

However, each time some problem is presented to us, we say that the state will solve it, the state is in charge of that. The state pays and when the bill arrives, we cannot pay it and have to go to the IMF. In the other party, there are candidates who continue to propose that the state must be still larger and more expensive. We will never be able to leave the IMF.

Labor Problem

[Question] Dr Gomez, in business circles there is a lot of talk about the urgency of a labor reform. It is indispensable so that industrial development can survive. Do you think it will be possible to take back privileges won by the unions, privileges that bring the industrial enterprises to a halt financially?

[Answer] Well, the words themselves in your question are a little confusing and perhaps compromising. Obviously, some labor reforms like the one on firing, retroactive firing, are a conquest of the working class and are untouchable. We cannot change that. Talking with the union leaders, it can be noted that they have realized that there are "conquests" of the working class that hurt the working class itself. There is no growth in employment today and for the workers, unemployment is more serious than an addition to their usual benefits. I believe that we will be able to establish a rational system for Colombian benefits with the unions that will be good, as a whole. The workers do not want it to collapse.

If everything is combined in a single block, the entire block can collapse. This has happened in other countries; it has happened in Uruguay. That possibility would not be good for our workers.

Collaboration

[Question] Let us move on to other topics because in these last minutes I would like to hound you with a variety of questions. It is very predictable, Dr Alvaro Gomez, that--if not in the coming weeks, then starting with their party convention in August--the government liberals will decide to withdraw their collaboration from the Betancur government. We would have an entire year with liberalism in the opposition. Do you think that would affect the development of your presidential campaign?

[Answer] Well, all those things affect the electoral results a little. They would affect me personally because I think the liberal collaboration is useful.

It is useful for the conservative party as conservative collaboration in liberal governments would be. Therefore, since I agree with that thesis, any prospect of ending that mechanism of collaboration seems bad to me. I don't like it. The policy must change a little. First, my policy is based on the assumption that we are going to continue working together, liberals and conservatives.

[Question] The subject of government participation by the parties, the president of the republic and the defeated party is very topical. Would you give equal participation to both parties or would it be proportional based on the electoral results?

[Answer] Well, there is one good point. Although we have amended the Constitution in very poor style, it always acquires a certain wisdom in the end. It states that the participation must be equitable. That means not a mechanical distribution but a distribution based on the circumstances existing at the time equity is subjectively determined. It is difficult to predict a mathematical formula, either proportional or equal. It is something else because the Constitution gives a broad interpretation to the term equity, not proportionality.

[Question] The Constitution says adequate and equitable but in relation to the party that comes in second in votes for president. Would the Constitution be flexible if you decided to give government participation to other political groups?

[Answer] Of course. I think that interpretation of the 120 is pretty drastic. There are subjective, not just objective, elements. Objectively, it would mean for each parliamentary representation, there is an equal number of positions in the public administration. This would be a difficult way to exercise command. You could voluntarily include, a little illegally perhaps, a number of subjective elements to give elasticity to the constitutional mandate that obliges the president to set up equitable collaboration.

[Question] Dr Gomez, President Betancur still has more than a year of government left. The conservative party is the government party. How do you think the conservatives, the parliamentarians, the leaders, the party could effectively help the current president remedy some of the most serious problems of the country?

[Answer] Like they have been doing. At this time President Betancur can demonstrate, can boast of having obtained substantial support from almost all the parliament, all the groups in parliament, for his peace policy and, especially, his economic policy. It is being demonstrated that it is possible.

With the United States

[Question] Dr Gomez, changing subjects, I remember your term as ambassador in Washington so I have this question. In Colombia there seems to be sentiment against the United States, anti-Yankee sentiment, even in government spheres. It seems as if the Colombians were told--I am exaggerating, of course--that the United States treats these countries badly. Until a short time ago, you were

ambassador. How do you view the U.S. positions toward these countries, particularly toward Colombia?

[Answer] That anti-Yankee position is an attitude that is more common among newspaper columnists than among the people themselves. Naturally among the Colombian people there is some prejudice against rich people in other places. That is perhaps natural. That is an automatic reaction. However, in some places they view the Yankee with approval because he moves the local economy a little.

The United States does not have a policy toward Latin America. Apparently, it has a policy but it doesn't have one. It has a fireman's mentality. It is waiting to see where the alarm will go off. Then it forms a fire company and sends it. Sometimes the firemen do as much harm as the fire itself. It does not have continuity or projection or a medium-term or long-term policy. That is one of its weaknesses and it is a Latin American weakness that we do not have an agreed on medium and long-term policy with the United States because we could get something out of that. With that fireman's mentality, we are wasting opportunities to seek development.

[Question] But on our part--because you say us--on the part of these countries, is there clarity about what our relations with the United States should be?

[Answer] No, none. Absolutely no clarity. There are no proposals. We have some associations like the OAS where we give speeches but there is no policy. As to economics, they have not been capable of really proposing collaboration. All our problems have been handled shortsightedly. They refer to the coming crisis, not medium or long-term development.

Clear Position

[Question] Dr Gomez, I have the honor of having known you for many years. Of all your personal qualities, which would you say has been most useful in your current presidential campaign?

[Answer] I think that the people believe me because I have been very consistent in my proposals. Since I do not have to explain all of them, I can continue developing them. My problem is a problem of publicity, making them reach the people. Therefore, presidential campaigns are good. The people find that there is substantial coherence. It seems to me that I can count on substantial credibility.

[Question] You just said I am very consistent and have credibility. Let me remind you that there was an image of an Alvaro Gomez who changed a lot in recent years. If that image was consistent, perhaps many people think that Alvaro Gomez is a far rightist and a hard-liner. Has consistency been compatible in your case with evolution?

[Answer] Look, I am consistent with my actions, my writing and my positions, not with the images that people attribute to me. People accuse me of not being consistent with the images that they have attributed to me at various

times. I don't really remember what those images are and it would be hard for me to be consistent with them because, of course, they have never been a reflection of reality. I am consistent with what I have done. I have been a great worker for peace in Colombia based on the policy of the National Front. I have committed myself to that and I have a few books, many articles, many positions, many actions. I want the people to think whether I have disrupted our agreements with the liberal party. We extended our hand, we resolved to end an undeclared civil war that was going on. Ever since then, I have worked with all the liberals. I have helped all the liberal presidents in very difficult times. I believe I have helped substantially and I have also preserved the spirit of unity. In journalism, I have good testimonials from my journalistic colleagues. I am consistent with myself, not with what others say. I could not be consistent with both because there is a substantial difference between what I **am** and what people say I am.

7717

CSO: 3348/739

COLOMBIA

NARINO GOVERNOR ASKS GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASED FUNDS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 May 85 p 7-D

[Article by Hector Gonzalez: "Guerrillas Have Reached Narino"]

[Text] Governor Mercedes Apraez de Ortega painted a dramatic picture of the situation in Narino Department yesterday. She said that, in addition to the deficit, the guerrillas have now arrived.

The situation has become chaotic considering the number of problems that afflict that section of the country, especially the port of Tumaco.

She also said that there are several problems that increase the tension like the Indian invasions. If this situation is not resolved, it will become a serious "headache."

The governor met with President Belisario Betancur yesterday morning in Casa de Narino. She explained that area's delicate situation.

Mercedes Apraez de Ortega came to Bogota with the mayor of Tumaco, Ernesto Kaiser, and a civic committee from that port.

As to public order, the governor said specifically that the climate is tense and conditions are not favorable. She noted that in southern Narino, in the areas of Cupal and Guachucal, the situation is difficult because of the invasion of land by the Indians.

She added that the fiscal situation is one of the most serious. There are no budget funds, obligations cannot be met and the current revenue is inadequate even for operating income.

The governor revealed: "The revenue is almost all pledged already. Something has to be done so that the department can survive. Otherwise, they will be forced to declare an economic emergency."

Tumaco Without Water, Electricity

The mayor of Tumaco, Ernesto Kaiser, and members of the civic committee presented solutions to President Betancur so that "the port can have a constant

and adequate supply of electricity and enough potable water to take care of the demands of the population."

There has been strict rationing and, occasionally, complete suspension of these services in Tumaco for several months due to damage and the inadequacy of the installed plants. The committee spokesmen told the president: "When there is electricity, the aqueduct which has electric pumps can supply 46 per-cent of the demand. When there is no electricity, there is no water."

Two provisional plants, loaned by CORELCA [Electric Corporation of the Atlantic Coast], are expected to come from Sucre in the next 2 weeks to take care of the emergency. Also repairs to Plant No. 2 will be completed.

However, the committee insisted that the government give "top priority" to the Pasto-Tumaco interconnection as a definitive solution to that problem and to begin "real development that permits us to live not just on shrimp, African palm and wood."

President Belisario Betancur promised to suggest to National Planning that it obtain soft credit to finance the installation of that transmission line.

7717

CSO: 3348/739

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

FRG TRADE DELEGATION VISITS--A delegation from German industry, banking and trade is in the country in response to an invitation from Fabio Echeverri Corres, the president of ANDI [National Association of Industrialists], and the German ambassador in Bogota. The delegation is headed by Dr Hans-Joachim Langmann, president of the federation of German industries BDI [Bundesverband Der Deutschen Industrie E.V.] of Cologne. The 16-member group includes businessmen from different sectors of German private industry as well as delegates from the financial, trade and other service sectors. This tour will include the cities of Bogota, Medellin, Cali and Manizales. The objective is to obtain direct information on possibilities, conditions and circumstances in order to promote cooperation between enterprises of the two countries. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jun 85 p 9-C] 7717

AIR FORCE INSPECTOR NAMED--Brig Gen Alfonso Amaya Maldonado was named inspector of the FAC [Colombian Air Force], replacing Gen Alfredo Ortega who became assistant commander of this branch. Brigadier General Amaya Maldonado had been chief of operations of the FAC. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 May 85 p 12-C] 7717

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PUBLISHES NEWSPAPER--The newspaper AL PODER, edited by the Conservative Committee of the Catholic University of Colombia, under the direction of Gilberto Giraldo Herrera, began circulating a few days ago with the publication of 4,000 copies. The first edition was launched with a special ceremony on 13 June in which the university announced its support for the presidential campaign of National Participation [Participation Nacional] candidate Alvaro Gomez. AL PODER is distributed free of charge, since it is financed by the university, and the second edition, which will be issued on Friday, may be obtained at the school. The newspaper's main purpose is to divulge the history and other aspects concerning the Conservative Party. To this end, it will have the collaboration of prominent politicians such as journalists Carlos Delgado Fernandez and Aristidez Castillo, who are also co-founders of the Catholic University. Former Minister Gabriel Melo Guevara and Carlos Martinez Simahan are also among the newspaper's collaborators. [Text] [Bogota EL EIGLO in Spanish 28 Jun 85 p 8]

CSO: 3348/778

GUYANA

BURNHAM COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING PNC-PPP TALKS

FL031855 Bridgetown CANA in English 1745 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Report by Keith Grant]

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, 3 Jul (REUTER)--Guyana will not allow any foreign observers at its general elections due to be held by next March, President Forbes Burnham said today. My position is firm, known and inflexible, he said in an interview.

Burnham, who has ruled Guyana continuously since 1964, said he was prepared to discuss this and other matters with opposition leader Cheddi Jagan but that he will reject any outside agency monitoring internal affairs.

Burnham said he expected the talks could start very soon, once a technical committee has met to prepare the agenda, which he said could be next week.

Jagan says he wants to discuss measures to ensure free elections, as well as moves to align more with socialist bloc countries and state security measures.

Burnham said he was prepared to consider any items that Jagan wanted to discuss, as a mature and responsible government, but said Jagan is bargaining for as much as he can get. He is indulging in a chess game, and his opening gambit has been to ask for everything. I think he is a little tired of being out of government.

Burnham said he was prepared to consider some sort of PPP participation in government decision-making, but did not elaborate.

On Jagan's proposals to increase ties with socialist countries, Burnham said Guyana has already increased trade and technology relations with the Eastern Bloc because it has been unable to obtain equipment and funds from the West.

We do not propose to have strong ties with one bloc as against the other--it just happens that a greater part is now with the East, he said.

Burnham said there is no possibility of agreement with the International Monetary Fund unless it changes its terms. Talks broke down last year over Guyanese arrears on IMF loans now standing at around 20 million dollars, and his refusal to implement austerity. This would lead to unemployment, which I could face by either allowing riots to take place or by spending the money saved on job reduction on police to maintain peace, he said.

GUYANA

DETAILS GIVEN ON SECURITY BILL PASSED IN PARLIAMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Jun 85 pp 1, 5

[Article by Colin King]

[Text]

THE National Security [Amendment] Bill seeks to protect and promote the vital interests of the Guyanese people, under the Constitution, Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte told the National Assembly yesterday.

Closing debate on the National Security [Miscellaneous Provisions] [Amendment] Bill 1985, the Prime Minister noted that there is a part for the Minority to play, "once they recognise their national duty."

The Bill was approved despite dissenting votes by ten members of the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP) and the United Force (UF).

As presented, the Bill sought to re-enact Part Two of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, which expired on May 21, 1984, with a number of modifications. Among the modifications was the inclusion of the prevention of the subversion of democratic institutions of Guyana under the provisions of the Act.

When Home Affairs Minister Jeffrey Thomas presented the Bill for its second reading in the Assembly yesterday, however, he informed members of two meetings held with top represen-

tatives of the Trades Union Congress, after which he was seeking to modify the proposed measure.

As a "measure of good faith," the sections dealing with the acts of persons "likely to cause" subversion of democratic institutions were deleted when the Bill went to Committee after debate yesterday.

Other amendments, making the Chancellor of the Judiciary wholly responsible for the selection of tribunal members who would consider cases under the Act, and stipulating judicial status for tribunal members were passed by the Assembly.

Yesterday's debate, punctuated by frequent heckling from the Government and Minority benches, was preceded by a large picketing exercise in support of the security measures.

Home Affairs Minister Thomas, leading off in consideration of the Bill, stressed the importance of Guyana protecting its revolutionary gains.

PPP members Reepu Daman Persaud, Janet Jagan and Minority Leader

Cheddi Jagan among themselves assessed the Bill as "intimidatory" and "objectionable".

Cde. Thomas stressed that no person is now detained or has been detained in several years under the Act. "We consider this Bill sound in principle, its constitutionality unquestionable and its propriety impeccable," he stated.

PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud said before such a Bill is brought there should be emergency conditions prevailing. "There is manifest peace in the country," he said, adding that: "The country is united against any threat to its sovereignty."

These views were later echoed by Minority Leader Cheddi Jagan and Janet Jagan, who, while adding her dissent to the PPP's position, contended that the measure was "intimidatory."

The PPP claims, however, hit a snag when Vice-President and Minister of Justice, Mohamed Shahabuddeen introduced an article from Sunday's copy of the PPP's "Mirror" newspaper.

The Vice-President noted that whenever liberty is threatened "it is obligatory to stand fast in its defence."

The page four article, headlined "Bring in the marines, say rightists,"

refers to a recent demonstration in the United States by the "Conservative Party of Guyana" — a group previously implicated in assassination and overthrow plots against the leadership of the two major Guyanese political parties and the Guyana Government.

On the occasion referred to by the Mirror article, and quoted yesterday in Parliament, the demonstrators chanted for US marines to invade Guyana and for "no more" of "Cheddi" and "Burnham."

The two leaders mentioned, Vice-President Shahabuddeen told the Assembly, are part of the democratic process of Guyana. What is at stake in the issue, he said, is a defence of "freedom at its most basic level."

He noted that the national security provisions, originally instituted in 1966, have been re-enacted since on three occasions by resolution of Parliament and on three occasions by Bills.

There is no reasonable doubt as to the necessity of re-enacting the provisions. What faces us is possible action to remove both the Government and the major Minority Party by violent means, and to disrupt the "perfect tranquillity and peace" which the Government has established, he said.

(GNA)

CSO: 3298/855

GUYANA

DENNY REPORTS ON 'SUCCESSSES' OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Colin King]

[Text] **MANPOWER** and Co-operatives Minister Kenneth Denny has underscored the importance of heightening public awareness of the significant role co-operative societies play in national life.

Cde Denny told a meeting of the Central Co-operative Week Planning Committee Wednesday that many in the community are still not fully aware of the "significant successes" being recorded in the Co-operative Movement.

He urged that successful co-operative societies be brought more under the spotlight to promote the Movement as part of the activities surrounding National Co-operative Week to be observed in the ten Administrative Regions from Sunday June 30 to Saturday, July 6.

The Central Committee has adopted a theme for Co-operative Week 1985 — "South and Co-operatives."

Among the major activities of the decentralised observances are Schools Co-operators Conventions in nine of the ten Regions on Wednesday, July 3 and in Region Five on Friday, July 5.

INVOLVEMENT

Students participating in the conventions are expected to form workshop groups to consider the recommended topic, "An active School's Co-operative Society is dependent on the support,

involvement and guidance of the school and co-operatives development Staff."

There will also be Co-operators Congresses for adult co-operators to focus discussion on co-operative policy directions in the next five years.

Several Regions will hold their Congresses on the first day of Co-operative Week, while others have scheduled their congresses for Sunday, July 7. Prominent regional figures and senior Central Government officials have been identified by the various Regions to address the congresses.

The other major Co-operative Week activity to be observed in several Regions will be agriculture, craft and food exhibitions that will, in most cases, coincide with International Co-operative Day, Saturday, July 6.

Opening of National Co-operative Week will be formally marked on Sunday June 30 by a message to be delivered by Manpower and Co-operatives Minister Kenneth Denny.

In addition to the major activities to be conducted in most of the Regions, individual Regions have arranged their own special events, including tours of co-operative undertakings, tree-planting exercises, self-help projects, and a variety of entertainment activities for youths and adults. [GNA]

GUYANA

NEW POSITIONS CREATED TO SPEED REGIONALIZATION PROCESS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Colin King]

[Text]

THE Administrations in the ten Regions of the country will be further strengthened through some 200 senior and junior Public Service positions created at the regional level.

With the creation of the positions, the Public Service Commission is advertising for persons to fill vacancies in the Regions.

The move is part of ongoing efforts in the Public Service to promote the development and acceleration of regionalism by establishing administrative structures, systems and work programmes in keeping with the needs of regional development.

Earlier this year managers in the Public Service got together to work toward streamlining the structures and redefining the missions of Central Ministries.

The transfer of officers to various Regions has since been stepped up. The Public Service authorities are currently assessing the level of success of the exercise so far, a Public Service Ministry official has said.

New positions in the Regions, advertised by the Public Service Commission, are the result of "ongoing collaboration and discussions with Ministries and Regions," the official explained.

Among the appointments to be made, are nine Senior Agriculture Officers, to serve in each of the Regions with the exception of Region Eight, [Potaro-Siparuni].

Ten Deputy Regional Executive Officers are also to be appointed in the ten Regions, mechanical engineers for five Regions, a civil engineer for Region Five, accountants for seven Regions, Personnel Officers [Grade 11] for seven Regions, field auditors for five Regions, as well as Registry Supervisors, storekeepers and clerks for various Regions.

The necessity for the current efforts, a part of Government's policy for some time, was underscored in the 1985 Budget presentation by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge.

Cde Greenidge had noted that, with the country's resources distributed over the ten Regions, neither the detailed planning for monitoring of plan implementation in development projects can be effectively undertaken from Georgetown.

"A greater degree of on-the-spot guidance, on-the-spot decision-making, on-the-spot monitoring of activities is of paramount importance," Cde Greenidge stressed.

Ministries and other institutions, he explained, "must be reconfigured to have effective representation and influence closer to the point of execution" and "a significant proportion of the employees of these institutions should be based in the Regions" to guide and support the Regional Administrations.

The closing date for applications is July 15, and a Public Service Commission Secretariat official explained that the vacancies advertised are being treated as a "priority."

Efforts, he said, would be made to facilitate prompt posting of personnel to Regions where they are urgently needed.

(GNA)

GUYANA

BRIEFS

PACT WITH DPRK--An agreement on cooperation between the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Guyana and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was signed recently in the DPRK. A Foreign Ministry release said the signing of the agreement was one of the major outcomes of a visit to the DPRK by Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Cde Dennis Gouveia, accompanied by Cde John Murray, first secretary of the Guyana Embassy in China. According to the release, discussions between Cde Gouveia and senior Foreign Ministry staff of the DPRK during the 10 to 18 June visit focused on "mutual interest in international relations and on the question of facilitating the development of economic and other forms of cooperation between the two countries." Comrade Gouveia signed the cooperation agreement on behalf of the Guyana Foreign Ministry and Comrade Chon Yong Jin, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, for the DPRK Ministry. The Guyana delegation was in the DPRK as special guests of the Korean Foreign Ministry. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Jun 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/855

PARAGUAY

COMMITTEE OF CHURCHES LAWYER RELEASED FROM PRISON

PY202036 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Jun 85 p 17

[Excerpts] Heriberto Alegre, a lawyer for the Committee of Churches, was released from the Tacumbu Penitentiary yesterday after being imprisoned for 8 months. He is being tried by the Alto Parana Courts in two cases for allegedly having incited campesinos to occupy private property.

Lawyer Alegre has always maintained his innocence before the courts. He has also told the press the same thing, indicating that he was strictly carrying out his professional task and that he never incited the campesinos to take any action in violation of the law.

Heriberto Alegre was arrested and immediately sent to the Tacumbu Penitentiary. The two cases are controversial, and they have now lasted 8 months. Many organizations and individuals have publicly asked for the release of Alegre, who will presumably leave Tacumbu Penitentiary today [as published].

CSO: 3348/748

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

ACTION AGAINST SLP MP--Kingstown, Wed., (AP): An opposition member may be suspended from Parliament in St. Vincent, a Government spokesman said yesterday. A spokesman, who declined to be identified, said a motion to suspend John Thompson could be presented on the House of Assembly floor. Thompson, last Thursday, walked out of the Assembly, after refusing to withdraw a statement considered "improper" by Speaker Olin Dennie. Dennie has yet to indicate what action could be taken, but Thompson could be suspended, the spokesman said. The incident occurred during a Budget debate, when Thompson, a member of the St. Vincent Labour Party, questioned legal fees paid to former Trinidad and Tobago Attorney General, Karl Hudson-Phillips, and his team, which included Dennie. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jun 85 p 5]

CSO: 3298/798

END

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS COMMENTS ON NAR DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

DRAFT constitution of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) says absolutely nothing about furthering the interests of the people of Trinidad and Tobago and there is nothing in it that should alarm the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

Mr. George Chambers, Prime Minister, made this statement in his capacity as Political Leader of the PNM when he met the Toco/Manzanilla constituency of the party on Saturday.

Mr. Chambers, who delivered a copy of the document to the constituency for discussion and public information, also handed over a paper prepared by Mr. Anthony Smart, former General Secretary of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) in which he advances arguments for the merger of the ONR and the NAR.

Both documents Mr. Chambers told his audience said nothing about the people of Trinidad and Tobago

"and I hand these to you for discussion in your constituency and for such use as you may wish to make of it for public information ... not a word about the people of Trinidad and Tobago..."

He said that it was curious that people aligned themselves in the country politically not for the purpose of providing better programmes, not for the purpose of satisfying the population, not for the purpose of giving freer education (.... because if something is free it cannot be freer....).

ESCAPE ROUTE

The alignment took place, he said, for the sole purpose of wresting power from the PNM.

The Smart paper stated that the single most cogent argument for a merger of the ONR and NAR was because the large majority of the people in the country who did not blindly support the PNM wanted it.

Mr. Smart, a young lawyer, stressed an organisation must respond to the wishes of the people if it wanted the support of the people.

The document, which was cir-

culated at the ONR's special convention two weeks ago and entitled "A view of the draft constitution of the NAR — a case for one national party, the NAR," argued if there was a merger of NAR and a dissolution of the existing constituent parties there would be no lure of an escape route of a "fall back" position in the event of disagreement among members in the NAR.

He added: "Persons in the NAR will be virtually forced to make the NAR succeed as there will be no 'home' to go in the event of differences along the way.

"If the parties retain their identities, in an election campaign the PNM will most certainly create fears and doubts in the minds of the electorate as to the cohesiveness of the federation and I submit that on that score alone the PNM would be likely to win the next election.

"In any event, if the NAR fails in bringing about national unity and a unified opposition party the electorate will deal very severely with both the National Alliance and the ONR."

CSO: 3298/822

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NAR PROMISES 'AUTONOMOUS STRUCTURE' FOR TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Jun 85 p 40

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

TOBAGO will be given its autonomy when the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) forms the next government of the country.

"This has been agreed to," ANR Robinson, political leader of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC), told his party's convention on Sunday.

"It has been agreed that we would have our own autonomous structure when the NAR forms the government," he told a cheering crowd at the Caribana on Bacolet Street in Scarborough. It is something which has been denied us by the hypocrisy of the PNM government."

Robinson was delivering the feature address at the convention which had met to pass a resolution authorising him to accept the nomination for the leadership of the NAR.

That resolution was not only unanimously passed,

but every speaker from the floor supported the proposal that their leader should play a greater part in the national politics of the country.

Robinson told party members that he always favoured joining forces with "our brothers and sisters in Trinidad," and he expressed appreciation for the part the National Alliance and the ONR had played in last November's House of Assembly elections which the DAC won by an 11-1 majority.

"You took on the full might of the PNM and you have broken them," he declared, stressing that the November campaign was the dirtiest in his experience.

"Had it not been for the assistance of the Alliance and the ONR, we may still have won but we would not have won as decisively as we did," he acknowledged.

Robinson was viciously critical of the manner in which the PNM government "has squandered the national patrimony in the last ten years" and said that was the most significant event in the Caribbean in the past decade — not the event in Grenada nor in Jamaica, but the corruption and squandering of the nation's wealth by the PNM government.

He said that the country was now in a worse condition than in 1973, the year of the oil windfall, with unemployment higher than it was then.

Robinson promised that the time will come when those who were responsible for squandering the nation's wealth will have to pay for the "crime they committed. They shall not be spared," he promised.

The DAC leader said that the NAR was the only salvation for the country and he urged the members to prepare for the battle ahead, predicting that the next political campaign by the PNM would be even dirtier than in Tobago last year.

CSO: 3298/847

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ROBINSON'S NATT ELECTION PAVES WAY TO NAR LEADERSHIP

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 Jul 85 p 3

[Text]

AT THE close of nominations last Friday, Tobago House of Assembly Chairman A.N.R. Robinson was elected unopposed to lead the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago (NATT) paving the way for his eventual election as the first political leader of the opposition coalition called the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

The EXPRESS San Fernando Desk learnt that Opposition leader Basdeo Panday was also elected unopposed as the deputy political leader of NATT, which is a coalition of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC), the United Labour Front (ULF) and the Tapia House Movement. However, the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk could not reach NATT elections supervisor Stephen Ramsamooj for confirmation.

It was learnt that the

post of chairman of NATT will be contested by Tapia's Dr Beau Tewarie and ULF chairman and Tabaquite parliamentarian Nizam Mohammed. The post of deputy chairman received the nominations of Chaguanas parliamentarian Winston Dookeran and Oropouche MP Trevor Sudama.

The crucial post of general secretary of NATT will be contested by NATT interim administrative secretary Alloy Lequay and ULF general secretary Kelvin Ramnath. Dr Sahadeo Basdeo had been one of the nominations for the post of assistant general secretary.

Some 603 delegates representing 13 units of the NATT coalition will vote for its national executive at the first national congress on Sunday. The Congress begins at 9 a.m. at the Rienzi Complex at Couva.

CSO: 3298/847

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS DISCUSSES CORRUPTION, DEWD, PNM CANDIDATES

DPP Role

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 11 Jun 85 p 56

[Excerpt] Prime Minister George Chambers, in outlining what he called his general attitude to corruption, called on citizens with evidence of corrupt practices of any kind to make this available to the Director of Public Prosecutions for possible legal action.

Chambers made the comment when he met the San Fernando West constituency in the current meet-the-party tour. The meeting was held at the Gulf City Shopping Complex and chaired by constituency chairman Byron Carrington. Parliamentary representative Errol Mahabir also addressed the 440 members present on Saturday evening.

On the question of corruption, Chambers said: "My general attitude to corruption is this: If anybody has evidence of corrupt practices of any kind I do not wish you to tell me, I do not wish you to write me an anonymous letter. I wish you to make the information available to the Director of Public Prosecutions."

He added: "I give you my solemn pledge I have never as Prime Minister, and will never seek to influence the functions of the DPP or interfere with the discharge of his duties.

Chambers said that since 1976, the DPP had been the sole authority to decide whether to proceed in criminal matters. He said the executive did not interfere in this matter.

Chambers said his dealings with the DPP had merely been in terms of approving travel for officers who were sent abroad on investigation. Said he: "I simply approve the matter quickly and send it back with the person who brought it. I don't know the man and if by chance we were to meet at a party, I exchange a quick greeting and disappear rapidly."

Chambers explained that the DPP was an independent office and "under the Constitution he cannot be removed. Said Chambers: "I cannot move him, the President cannot move him, no one can move him. He is absolutely free to act in the

interest of justice, so please go straight to him. No minister has anything to do with the functions of the DPP." He added: "This is my position and the position of that of my Cabinet colleagues."

Position of DEWD

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers has staked his political career on the reorganisation of the DEWD [Development & Environmental Works Division] programme saying that it was never intended to be a place for the employment of unproductive workers nor was it an employment agency for the ruling party.

Chambers insisted that the DEWD programme must "go back to its original moorings" declaring that he was prepared to stand the political consequences to ensure that this was done. Referring to the DEWD programme Chambers said: "How could any government continue to countenance that indefinitely, and whatever the consequences to me personally, I took that decision and that is the decision."

Chambers spoke to party supporters of the Caroni East constituency at the Chaguanas Senior Comprehensive School on Tuesday night. Several constituents including Parliamentarian Manic Ramsaran addressed the session which was part of Chambers' meet-the-party tour.

Chambers explained the philosophy of the DEWD programme. He said: "When this programme was commenced, the intention was to provide certain limited employment opportunities, in particular villages where for one reason or another the developmental work was not taking place in a general developmental sense." He said that many drains and roads which were "in a sense orphans" where nobody assumed responsibilities for them caused the people to complain.

Said Chambers: "Nobody in his wildest dreams contemplated that the programme would reach the stage where you negotiate with a trade others on the list get a chance."

Chambers said that for reasons he did not wish to disclose, the DEWD programme had "been getting out of hand and getting more and more out of hand." Said he: "And I decided that something had to be done about it to get it back to its original moorings."

Since 1970, the DEWD programme was funded out of the Unemployment Levy for a number of years. But gradually the cost of the programme had to be funded from general revenue. So that money which would have been allocated to fund developmental works in the country found their way supplementing DEWD for a purpose."

"I will tell you for what purpose — for employing a cadre of people on a permanent basis who had become, in the eyes of the tax paying community, because the tax paying community, not the general tax paying community but the tax paying community that earns sufficient to pay the unemployment levy, had become quite incensed that its tax dollars were being disbursed in that manner. Everywhere we went people talked about it and in less than generous terms. Something had to be done about it," he said.

Chambers said he took the decision as Minister of Finance and as head of the Government that DEWD must go back to its original moorings. "I submit that if DEWD went back to its original moorings, instead of employing 7,000 people permanently or 8,000 or 10,000, what it will do is every fortnight you will employ 10,000 people. This was the original intention," he said.

He added that "DEWD was not intended as a form of permanent employment of a cadre of anybody. It was not intended that you negotiate with the same trade union you negotiate for the daily-paid workers. People were getting casual leave, sick leave, extended sick leave, leave of absence with pay, leave of absence without pay, study leave with pay, and study leave without pay. What is the meaning of all this? How could any government continue to countenance that indefinitely and whatever the consequences to me personally I took that decision and that is the decision."

Quality of Candidates

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers will have neither "friend" nor "partner" in the selection of candidates for the next General Elections, constitutionally due by February, 1987. He made this clear when addressing members and supporters of the Toco/Manzanilla Constituency of the PNM, during another leg of his meet-the-party tour on Saturday evening, at North Eastern College in Sangre Grande.

Mr. Chambers, who is conducting the sessions in his capacity as Political Leader of the PNM, prefaced his "no friend" talk by emphasising that one of the most important issues in the next general elections would be the slate of candidates presented to the electorate.

Responding to complaints about Local Government representatives reporting, or not reporting, to their constituents, Mr. Chambers said there was a Local Government election next year, and the party groups in the exercise of their democratic right would have every opportunity to nominate persons.

That would demonstrate if they were satisfied with the conduct of the persons they elected to the various councils in 1983.

Obviously referring to general elections, Mr. Chambers who reiterated government's role in relation to that of public servants in the implementation of Government's plans, said:

"What I can tell you on a much broader level, as I see the situation down the road (speaking for myself now), I see one of the issues in the next general election — whenever it is held — would be your slate of candidates."

Key Issue

"Your quality of candidates (applause).

"It is going to be absolutely fundamental to the next general elections, whenever it is, and constitutionally it must be held by February 1987.

"So that one of the key issues in the next elections, in my view, will be your slate of candidates. And if I am around at all as Political Leader, I can tell you now, in 1985, that I have no partner. No partner, and no friend when it comes to the selection of candidates for the next general elections (applause).

"When it comes to the selection of candidates in the next general elections I have one partner and that is the People's National Movement. So, we shall see what we shall see..."

Making no apology for saying, last week, that it was not government's function to implement its plans — that was the province of the administration — Mr. Chambers said everywhere he went he heard complaints, but it was not that Government was not planning adequately.

It was a question of the implementation machinery being too slow. Which again raised the question of public service reform.

Emphasising that Government had no control over the implementation machinery, Mr. Chambers said:

"Wherever I go, I hear complaints, and when you examine the complaints, the fault cannot be laid at the doorsteps of a minister, or a

parliamentary secretary or a PNM representative.

"The fault lies with the failure of the administration to act. That is a fact."

Mr. Chambers found he was in a very awkward position. Like when he told the truth, some people — such as a gentleman from the Caigual area who spoke earlier — perceived that he was threatening somebody.

The Political Leader elaborated:

"I am not threatening anybody, because I do not have the authority to do anything about it. In other words, if I came and met a messenger sleeping...

SERVICE PROTECTED

"As a matter of fact, a Minister, one day, when into his office and found a messenger sleeping on his chair at his desk. That is a fact. And that messenger is still in the ministry.

"The fact is, the Minister can only tell him get out his office, but he cannot transfer him. He cannot fire him, suspend him, or anything. He might call in the permanent secretary and upbraid the permanent secretary.

"Under the Constitution your public service is highly protected, and the protection of the public service is well entrenched. So I don't see why I should apologise for drawing to the attention of the party some of the difficulties we face.

"And it is a matter of regret for me that that is perceived as, at least by one person, that I am threatening somebody."

The next stop is on June 25, when Mr Chambers meets Port-of-Spain South Constituency, at South-East Port-of-Spain Secondary School.

CSO: 3298/799

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ACTIVITIES OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, ALLIANCE REPORTED

NAR Leadership Scheme

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 6 Jun 85 p 56

[Text] The Inaugural Conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), expected to take place in July, is to elect an executive that will include a political leader, two deputy political leaders, a chairman and two vice-chairmen, and 18 other members, according to the draft constitution of the party.

The EXPRESS has obtained a copy of the draft constitution which is to be discussed in detail at a special national conference of the Organisation for National Reconstruction on Saturday.

The principal organs of the NAR are to be the Annual Conference and Special Conferences, the Council and the Executive, and party officials will gain office in an electoral process aimed at ensuring equal representation for the ONR and the Alliance.

The NAR's political leader is to be elected from candidates nominated by the unit parties "in the manner prescribed," and more than one candidate may be nominated by each unit party.

The political leader and his deputies, along with the chairman, will hold office for three years, while other officials, including a treasurer, public relations officer, secretary and assistant secretary, elected by the executive, will hold office for one year.

The ONR is to make a strong bid for the post of chairman, according to a party source. There will, according to the constitution, be one deputy political leader from the ONR and one from the Alliance, and one vice-chairman from each unit party.

Each unit party may nominate as many candidates as it likes for each of these posts and then all those present at an annual (or special conference), including 500 delegates from each unit party, will vote. The inaugural conference is the first annual conference.

The Council of the party is to consist of 72 members, 36 from the ONR and 36 from the Alliance.

DAC Union With NAR

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

The Democratic Action Congress has made the necessary adjustments to its constitution to permit it to enter the four-party coalition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

The final constitutional arrangements were made on Wednesday night at a meeting of its Congress, the supreme authority in the party, at which political leader ANR Robinson was present.

The DAC, it was reported also made the necessary adjustments for its constitutional participation in the National Alliance, which with the ONR, will now make up the NAR.

The National Alliance which came together for the 1981 general elections comprises the Democratic Action Congress, the United Labour Front led by Basdeo Panday and the Tapia House Movement led

by Beau Tewarie.

Robinson is already tipped to become the first leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction but he still has to get his party's formal approval to accept.

Accordingly, the Party's congress which started on Wednesday night, will conclude on Sunday June 16 when a motion authorising him to accept nomination for the leadership of the NAR will be moved and it is expected, approved.

A DAC official said in Scarborough yesterday that the constitutional adjustments made by the party had been carefully scrutinised at all levels of the party and approved at every stage. "It was a unanimous decision," said the official.

"The way is now clear," said the official, "for the acceptance of the constitution of the NAR."

ONR Probe of Rambachan

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 9 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] **KARL HUDSON-PHILLIPS — political leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction — has proposed an inquiry into the controversial remarks made on national television, by Suruj Rambachan on Indian Arrival Day, May 30.**

Rambachan, deputy political leader of the ONR, had called for greater media coverage of Indian culture. His remarks were interpreted by some as racial and divisive and the party's national executive called for his resignation. Hudson-Phillips made his proposal yesterday at a special conference of the Organisation for National Reconstruction at the Astor Cinema in Woodbrook. The conference was called to debate the draft constitution of the national Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) and about 800 people attended.

An eight-member board of enquiry is to look into the matter and Party Chairman Roy Augustus is to be convenor and chairman. It was Augustus who had moved the motion at a meeting of the national executive on June 4 (not attended by the political leader) to call on the political leader to ask for Rambachan's resignation.

Hudson-Phillips, who said Rambachan behaved in an "aggressive, undignified and ungentlemanly way," told the conference, "Among my responsibilities as leader is to see that justice is done, however painful this may be, that all sides are given a fair hearing and that the matter be decided in an atmosphere free from hysteria and interference, particularly from the PNM."

According to its terms of reference, the board is to give Rambachan "the full opportunity to be heard" and it must discover "what was actually said and how it was said." The board is free to seek the opinions of "partners" in the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

Additionally, the board is to report on the ways to wipe out or cut down the racial element in politics. Hudson-Phillips plans to discuss with NAR the possibility of "broadening the scope of this enquiry into a NAR enquiry."

Rambachan left Trinidad last night with six other county councillors for a tour of British central and local government authorities. The board of enquiry has two weeks from his return to make a report to the political leader.

Hudson-Phillips said when he saw the Rambachan interview on television, his initial reaction was "one of absolute distaste at the manner and indeed manne-

risms of the deputy political leader." He said he was so disturbed that he could not pay full attention to what Rambachan was saying. He said people were looking for "sober, balanced and unemotional behaviour from its leaders" and in the past he had reason to caution Rambachan on "the splenetic nature of his presentations."

"Rambachan has done a disservice to himself most of all," said Hudson-Phillips.

Hudson-Phillips accused the ruling party of using TTT to brainwash the people. "I wish to warn the population that TTT is now being used nakedly by the PNM to brainwash the population mentally to accept the status quo," he said. Hudson-Phillips said he asked Lennox Raphael, public relations officer, to arrange for him to look at the complete footage of Indian Arrival Day celebrations. (He was wary, he said, of TTT editing for in the past he had been shown out of context or, in an unfavourable light.) He was told the tape either could not be found or was not available.

He described the ONR as "the only truly multi-racial party" and warned that the PNM would "unleash the most vicious racial campaign we have ever seen in this country." He quoted the constitution of the ONR and said, "The politics of race is the politics of divide and rule in which we are all the losers."

Hudson-Phillips commended the national executive for taking swift action, even in his absence, to deal with the Rambachan issue. He said, "They have not swept the matter under the carpet I am pleased that we have succeeded to the extent where the national executive considers itself capable of taking serious and hard decisions even in the absence of the political leader. This speaks well for the internal development of the party."

The Team

THE MEMBERS of the board of inquiry are:

- Doreen Ahow — St Joseph.
 - Herbert Atwell — immediate past chairman.
 - Premchand Dass — Tabaquite, president of the National Land Tenants Association.
 - Dr Anselm St George — San Fernando West.
 - Neville Hordatt — education officer.
 - Patricia Ogilvy-Fredericks — Diego Martin East.
 - Gerald Yet Ming — immediate past elections officer.
 - Dr Dipchand Rattan — Tunapuna.
- Wendy Ghent is secretary/rapporteur.

Panday on Rambachan Affair

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday said he firmly believes that the "Rambachan affair" would not in any way affect the struggle of the National Alliance for Construction (NAR) to build a party of national unity.

Referring to reports that the Alliance has intervened in the Rambachan affair nor was the Alliance pressure, as alleged, to discipline him."

Mr. Panday also said that Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, leader of the ONR, never discussed the matter with him "and I did not expect him to do that since this is an internal matter for the ONR."

Mr. Panday added that he did not think that the incident would in any way affect the struggle for national unity by the Opposition parties.

Mr. Rambachan, Deputy Political Leader of the ONR, has been accused of making certain "racial" remarks at Cedros during the Indian Arrival Day celebrations.

He said his remarks were taken out of context and were misunderstood.

He offered to resign as ONR Deputy Political Leader and Chairman of the St. Patrick County Council.

ONR on NAR Constitution

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] **THE ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) has ratified in special convention the constitution of the National Alliance for Reconstruction of which the ONR is a founding member.**

This was the culmination of Saturday's meeting at the Astor Theatre which was summoned to deal with a number of issues that were over-shadowed by the controversy over Deputy Political Leader Suruj Rambachan's remarks calling for greater exposure of East Indian culture on Trinidad and Tobago Television.

This Rambachan issue used up so much time on Saturday that the meeting was unable to transact all the items on the agenda. It had to be adjourned.

Mr. Lennox Raphael, Public Relations Officer of the ONR, said yesterday afternoon that the ratified NAR document would be taken by the ONR delegation to the next NAR "Contact Group" meeting. It was ratified with minor changes.

In his closing remarks at the meeting, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader of the ONR, was interrupted by a question from a member in the audience who enquired if there was any charge hanging over the head of Mr. Rambachan.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips replied that according to the party's constitution, the Deputy Political Leader was appointed by the Political Leader "and I have said nothing against the Deputy Political Leader."

Shortly after addressing Saturday's meeting, Mr. Rambachan flew to London at the head of a County Council delegation on an official visit to study local government operations in England.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips announced at the meeting that a team was appointed to investigate the Rambachan issue.

WITH CAUTION

Referring to the address of Mr. Rambachan (floor members demanded that he speak) Dr. Romesh Mootoo, the ONR's Second Vice-Chairman, said the members had seen democracy at work.

On a call from ONR members and supporters that the party should merge with other Opposition parties to form one party, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said that had to be done with caution "and I am sure the ladies here today will agree that an engagement is more important than a shotgun marriage."

Explaining the party's refusal to have TTT film the meeting on Saturday, Mr. Raphael said the station could not be trusted with impartiality in political coverage, he added:

"We tried to get our Political Leader to view the film of the incident at Cedros and were told by the station's General Manager that it was taped over, but the same film of Rambachan at Cedros was shown on Saturday night. Where is the honesty of some of TTT's senior personnel? Obviously they are playing their games up there on Maraval Road..."

In a statement, the National Joint Action Committee said in part yesterday:

"Though NJAC believes that Mr. Rambachan's remarks and attitude on Indian Arrival Day were disgraceful, immature and without a sound grasp of ethnic relations in Trinidad and Tobago, we feel that in separating the sheep from the goats, Mr. Rambachan may not be the only goat."

In a statement on the Rambachan issue at the start of Saturday's meeting, Mr. Hudson-Phillips, said:

"I am convinced that Trinidad

and Tobago is about to face a very serious threat. This test is whether or not democracy will survive. For the first time the NAR presents a truly national, multi-racial front to the defensive racism of the PNM.

AFRO-ASIAN MUSEUM

"The PNM is concerned not about Trinidad and Tobago but about staying in power at all costs — regardless of who they use. The NAR is calling on the nation to avoid the tragedies of Guyana and Cyprus."

"The recent statement in Parliament by John Humphrey (Opposition, St. Augustine) that the PNM has only used black people and given them the least in return is said, but wasn't it true?"

Tobagonians, he added, suffered more than any section of the national population under the very PNM.

"What has this Government done for the indigenous art forms — the calypso, the steelband, our poets, our artistes, our dancers, our musicians? What has happened to the Afro-Asian museum which the PNM promised in 1971? he asked.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips added: "Let us see the PNM strategy for what it is and rise above it in the NAR to forge a Trinidad and Tobago culture. Let us not talk about Indian Arrival Day in Trinidad but rather Arrival Day in Trinidad of our ancestors from India."

"Let us take a positive view on Emancipation Day and count not the lashes on our backs but how much we have achieved since then and will achieve together in the future."

"The issue of the performance of Suruj Rambachan on television is now bigger than Rambachan, bigger than the ONR, bigger than the NAR."

"It is the opportunity for serious reflection on the sort of unique cultural heritage which we in Trinidad and Tobago have. To my mind it gives us an opportunity to think seriously about how we will deal with the racial campaign of the PNM at the next general election."

DAC Green Light for Robinson

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] **ANR ROBINSON, leader of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC), was yesterday given the authority of his party to accept nomination for the leadership of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).**

A resolution to this effect was accepted unanimously by the DAC's congress, the party's supreme authority, in which Robinson's leadership qualities were stressed.

The resolution took note of the coming together of the National Alliance, made up of the DAC, the United Labour Front, and the Tapia House Movement with Karl Hudson Phillips' Organisation of National Reconstruction to form the NAR.

"There has been widespread expression of support for Robinson to lead the NAR," stated the

resolution. It added: "It is right and proper that a decent respect be accorded to the sentiments of the population democratically expressed."

Accordingly, the congress "expressed its full support for the nomination of ANR Robinson as political leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction" and expressed "its complete confidence in his leadership qualities, and particularly his competence, commitment, integrity, political sagacity and lengthy experience in public life, both nationally and internationally."

Beau Tiwarie, representing the National Alliance, told the congress the people of the country are now prepared to change the government, and the NAR, with positive leadership, is going to provide them with that opportunity.

CSO: 3298/800

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ROBINSON DISCUSSES CRITERIA FOR IMPROVED ECONOMY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Jul 85 p 1

[Article by Jerry Johnson]

[Text] IN ALL transitional societies there are two contrary forces at work: the politics of power and the politics of transformation.

"Success, whether in the economic or political field, depends on the extent to which the politics of power can be subordinated to the ends of transformation," A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, said yesterday as he addressed monthly Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce luncheon at the Hilton Hotel.

In a speech which was interrupted by tumultuous applause and ended with a standing ovation, Mr Robinson said the major goals of all newly independent countries were development and equality.

This was achieved through what political scientists called "transformation." The effective management of our situation today, Mr. Robinson said would demand an understanding of this transformation process that has been taking place since achieving independence in 1962.

"On achieving independence, we set out to transform our society not merely to survive as an independent state, but to achieve a higher stage of development comparable to that of the developed societies and a greater measure of equality through social programmes in-

volving more equitable distribution of the national product," he noted.

RAPID EXPANSION

"We recognised expansion and diversification of the productive sector as a key element in the successful transformation of the economy as a whole."

Hence the Second Five-Year Plan, 1964-68, outlined its objective as changing the structure of the economy so that the existing over-dependence on petroleum would be reduced.

"If this is to be achieved," the plan said, "then the other sectors of the economy — manufacturing and agriculture — must expand more rapidly than the petroleum industry."

That was needed to achieve a satisfactory rate of growth of per capita product and income; and to provide productive employment for the increasing labour force.

Explaining further, Mr Robinson said that the then Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning in his introduction to the Third Five-Year Development Plan, 1969-73, stated: "The draft plan has been set within the framework of a development strategy which, if successfully implemented, would achieve in 15 years' time for the country full employment; a diversified and greatly strengthened economy, and a greater degree of economic independence."

The forecast in 1968 was all that was to be achieved by 1983, Mr Robinson said. The total cost of the five-year plan for the public sector was to be \$375 million.

RISE IN REVENUE

"The previous five-year plan had cost \$306 million," he pointed out. "So that the total public sector

outlay for the two five-year plans was to be \$681 million. These figures, may I emphasise, have been taken from the plans themselves."

The two five-year plans did not anticipate any abnormal increase in oil prices, Mr. Robinson said. Over the period 1964-68, current revenue rose from \$185.4 million to \$368.0 million. From 1969-73 current revenue rose from \$268 million to \$476 million.

"Over the entire decade of the two plans, that is, from 1963 to 1973 current revenue rose from \$185.4 million to \$476 million or by 157 per cent."

Analysing the succeeding decade of the oil boom, the THA Chairman pointed out that in the first year alone, current revenue rose from \$476 million to \$1,217.2 million — just about equal to the entire preceding ten year period.

DEFICIT AFTER BOOM

"In every single year from 1977 — we received well over the total receipts of the ten year period 1963-73," Mr. Robinson claimed. "In fact in every single year from 1980 onwards we were receiving well over twice as much as the total receipts during the entire ten year period before the start of the oil boom."

"If you have still retained your sanity, remember that we were to achieve our stated goals in the two five-year development plans without the oil bonanza which was at the time completely unforeseen."

Before the oil boom, Mr. Robinson continued his argument, the

Government had a current account deficit of \$8.3 million. The first year of the oil boom brought a surplus of \$627 million in 1977 — a \$1.7 billion surplus and \$3.4 billion in 1981.

By 1984 Government moved from a current account surplus to a deficit of over \$600 million.

"Whatever allowances are made for inflation rates and decline in the value of the currency, with my own experience as a former Finance Minister, I say this is an incredible performance."

Mr. Robinson explained that a key element in the transformation process was a sense of responsibility in leaders and total commitment. These elements, he argued, must be combined with a thorough understanding by the leadership of the internal and external forces at work.

FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES

"The crucial element that is most frequently lacking is commitment," he said. "Where commitment is lacking the simplest problems requiring obvious solutions become formidable obstacles. Power and survival become the motivating factors. A scapegoat must be found to blame for every failure. Responsibility is thrown out of the window. Self-righteousness quickly enters to take its place."

"Where the voting system still exists, elections become the supreme test. The whole panoply of state power is brought into play. The public treasury becomes a party chest."

24 July 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PANDAY DISCUSSES POLITICAL CLIMATE, GOVERNMENT POLICIES

GUARDIAN Interview

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jun 85 p 9

[Interview with Basdeo Panday by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

MR BASDEO PANDAY, Leader of the National Alliance, has been asked to state his stand regarding the leadership issue in the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) now that Mr. Karl Hudson Phillips leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) has decided to drop out of the race.

Q: Mr. Panday, now that Mr Hudson-Phillips has opted out of the race for leadership of the NAR, what is your position?

A: I have always contended that the leadership of the NAR is not and has never been a problem for us. The proposed Constitution of the NAR provides for the election of the Political Leader and other officers of the NAR by the democratic process at the conference of delegates.

Either or both units of the NAR may nominate persons to contest such elections, and we have all agreed to accept the democratic expression of the Party and the people. And that is still my position.

Q: What about Mr. A.N.R. Robinson — do you think he would stand down as Mr. Hudson-Phillips and give way to you?

A: Surely, that is a question that should be addressed to Mr. Robinson. I suspect that the question is slightly provocative in the light of known public support for Mr. Robinson as Political Leader of the NAR.

Q: Do you think that the leadership of the NAR should be settled before the general elections?

A: Yes, I do. We cannot ignore our political history and the level of our political consciousness. For the past 29 years the country has had a clearly identifiable leader to whom our people, rightly or wrongly, looked for leadership.

They are accustomed to this leadership syndrome. It would be unwise, therefore, for the NAR to go to an election without providing the country with a clearly identifiable leader.

UNDERSTANDING

Q: Do you believe that all the opposition parties should dissolve themselves and join forces into one national party — the NAR?

A: I most certainly do. This is in fact, what the Alliance advocated from the beginning of the talks. But the ONR was unwilling to adopt this course at this stage of our development.

They appreciated that need for a unitary party, but thought that this should evolve naturally in the course of time, instead of being rushed into at this stage.

There was a general understanding among us that if you are walking along in a group and you wish to stay together you can only walk as fast as the most cautious of the group.

Q: If you should lose out to Mr. Robinson for the NAR leadership, would you agree to serve under him?

A: Of course, I would. It is not a question of winning out or losing out to anyone. The struggle is to forge a credible alternative to the PNM and get out of the mess into which they have plunged the country.

If we can do that then everybody wins. There are no losers. In those circumstances, I shall consider it an honour and privilege to serve in any capacity whatsoever.

Q: If the NAR should win the next general elections what are some of the main areas of priorities?

A: You are trying to get me into trouble again. Naturally, I have my own ideas as to what areas should receive priority. But having regard to the fact that the units in the NAR are in the process of hammering out a common policy and programme, surely, it would be unwise, if not indecent, of me to give the impression that I am trying to pre-empt discussions on so serious a matter.

If I did that my colleagues in the NAR would be quite justified in being annoyed with me. I am sure you understand.

Q: Can you outline briefly the method by which the NAR intends to elect a leader?

A: The NAR constitution provides for a national conference of delegates comprising 500 delegates from the ONR and 500 from the Alliance. It is this conference that would elect the political leader of the NAR.

CANDIDATES

Each unit of the NAR is entitled to nominate candidates for that office and that leader would be democratically elected by that body.

Q: With an NAR Government in power, do you see the PNM breaking up into splinter groups?

A: I wish you would not ask me questions about the PNM. I spend so

much time thinking about what is happening to our people and our country, that I have very little left to think about what will happen to the PNM, if they also lose the elections.

Time and energy would be much better spent thinking about what a NAR Government would do to bring prosperity and happiness to our people.

But since you asked, I suppose I must oblige. To answer this question you must define the PNM. You would have to ask — who or what is

the PNM? In so doing you would discover that there is a clear distinction between the ruling elite in the PNM and those who vote for the PNM, that is to say, the rank and file.

If the NAR wins the elections that would have meant that a large proportion of the rank and file would have already left the PNM and aligned themselves with the NAR.

After the results are declared, the rest would follow-suit. As far as the PNM ruling elite (what I call the parasitic oligarchy) is concerned, I do not believe that enough of them would remain in the country to form a single group, far less splinter groups.

Q: What type of Government do you believe is best suited for multi-racial cosmopolitan Trinidad and Tobago?

A: The type of Government best suited to any country is the kind that has the potential and capacity to bring the greatest happiness possible to the greatest possible number of its citizens.

Since human beings are most the same everywhere, it follows that the type of Government best suited to one country may not necessarily be the best type for another country. Even in the same country the type of Government in one era may not be the type suitable to another era.

The best system of Government is one that is capable of meeting the needs and aspirations of the people at any given time. If this is accepted, then our present system of Government has failed to achieve that objective, then it must follow that there is need for constitutional reform.

But what kind of reform? That is the question. No one man can sit down and produce a blue-print of the type of Government best suited to the Government. This can only be the result of discussions, dialogue and consensus among those to be governed.

The reason why the Westminster model of first past the post single member constituency has not worked in Trinidad and Tobago is because we are not British. We have inherited British institutions without British traditions.

Trinidad and Tobago is a unique society; highly plural in nature, with its own historical antecedents, its own level of consciousness, its own cultures and indeed, its own problems.

Any system of Government claimed to be best suited to this country must have regard to these various factors. But most of all, it must have the consensus of the governed.

We must not be afraid to sit down and talk, and we must be courageous enough to dare to experiment until we find the answers. Nothing is impossible if we have the will to succeed.

Q: Do you agree there is dire need for change of Government? Why?

A: Do you think I would be devoting so much of my time, my energy and my life to removing the Government if I did not think so? Of course, I believe that there is an urgent need for change of Government.

Let me say from the outset, that if the present Government was doing a good job, I would be the last person to advocate change. But it is my humble view that a Government that has "used up" (for want of a better word) over \$50 billion in 10 years, and has still failed to provide a mere 1-2 million people with the basic necessities of life, cannot, by the widest stretch of the imagination, be said to have done, or is doing, a good job.

I wish to God, they were. The day there is no longer any need for me to engage in political struggle, I shall dance with joy.

Slap at Developed Nations

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 85 p 5

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Basdeo Panday told a parliamentary conference in Barbados that the developed countries were using "population containment" as a 'red herring, to divert the attention of Third World countries from the real issues facing them.

Panday told the EXPRESS San Fernando desk he was convinced that the developed countries were not prepared to tackle the real issues behind the poverty of Third World nations. Panday represented Trinidad and Tobago at the Inter-American Parliamentary Conference on Population held at the Harewood Resort in Barbados last week. The two-day conference was attended by representatives of Caribbean and Latin American governments as well as India, Canada, United States and the United Kingdom.

Panday said the real issues were the unequitable terms of trade, the introduction of a new

economic order and the transfer of technology. He said it was important that the new economic order develop new terms of trade and balance of trade on equal conditions. The Opposition Leader said that the poverty of the Third World countries cannot be attributed merely to population growth but must look at the economic reality of the present economic order.

Said Panday: "We cannot sit and talk about the containment of population in Third World countries and ignore the fact that millions of tons of wheat and grains are burnt and litres of milk poured in unused mines because of over production and the obsession of the developed countries to maintain price levels."

Panday, who is also an economist, urged the leaders of the developed nations to examine the present economic order with the aim of making adjustments to ensure equitable terms of trade and reasonable returns for the resources of Third World countries.

CSO: 3298/822

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TOBAGO ASSEMBLY TO MEET CHAMBERS ON FISCAL SHORTAGE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Jun 85 p 32

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] The Tobago House of Assembly, up to the end of May, had received only one-fifty of its parliamentary allocation for development projects in 1985.

"Only a fortnight ago, the Assembly was faced with a complete shutdown of its projects because of non-receipt of funds," said a statement from the office of Assembly Chairman, A.N.R. Robinson, yesterday. As a result, the Assembly, according to the statement "has unanimously decided to seek an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister of Finance and Planning.

"The decision to meet with the Prime Minister," it was explained, was taken following reports from the staff of the Assembly. "These reports indicate that up to May 31 this year, the Assembly had received only one-fifth of its parliamentary allocation for development projects in 1985," said the statement from the Chairman. "Even where warrants were received they were often received late and followed an irregular pattern," it was stressed.

Members of the Assembly are now seeking to discuss the entire situation with the Prime Minister.

"Because of the absence of industrial and other private sector activity, Tobago is threatened with widespread unemployment," said the statement. "In addition, the Assembly's 1986 estimates are due to be submitted by the 30th of this month. However, members of the Assembly are at a loss to prepare these estimates in any meaningful way owing to the chaotic situation," complained the statement.

CSO: 3298/800

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS' WORLD TOUR HIT AS 'POLITICAL CHICANERY'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 30 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

THE imminent world tour by Prime Minister George Chambers and his entourage, will be an unproductive, highly expensive flop.

If the PNM track record is to be relied upon. It will also be "a good time" for party insiders, and a brazen piece of political chicanery. As is traditionally and typically PNM, it will be a major effort at dazzling and bamboozling the gullible members of the public with impressive fanfare, pronouncements and promises that will come to nothing.

There will be lots of pictures, video tapes and satellite instant-casts of the Prime Minister with Thatcher, Gandhi and such, in frightfully impressive, award-winning charades guaranteed to please every developed or undeveloped soul. The hosts will attempt to be polite, but skillfully non-committal. At most a minor bank loan or some bit of technical assistance which will hardly materialise will be trumpeted abroad as signs of progress and success.

All concerned, the visitors and the "visiteds" will try to milk the occasions for all the political mileage they can get. Lots of jolly smiles, hand-claps and back-slapping, and the usual platitudinous announcements about neutrality, sovereignty, exchange of technology and investment opportunities. It all adds up to familiar and well worked scenario.

But in the cold air of impartial analysis, nothing of lasting importance will be achieved. Except perhaps Chambers returning in triumph like one of the characters in his favourite hobby, grand opera, where Radames comes back to tumultuous acclaim in the Grand March from Giuseppe Verdi's opera, "Aida." As an opera lover, he will recall that Radames's triumph was short-lived. But it is certain that Chambers will come back waving bouquets and bonanzas ... just in time for the next elections.

It can even be confidently expected that certain agreements, protocols

and plans — the grander, the better — will be signed with customary gusto, flair .. and ineffectitude.

This outlook is not as harsh as it may seem for as any historian would point out, it is important in building for the future to avoid the mistakes of the past. In other words, keep an eye on history. Therefore, in planning a grand tour, it is useful to consult previous grand tours in order to see what were the outcomes. These were undertaken by our chief historian of the century, Dr. Williams.

Sad to say, one of his principal aides in the African safari, Mrs Isabel Teshea, basked in glory all through the African grasslands but returned to spend her remaining days, a forgotten soul in the back-land of PNM activity.

BOMBAST

It is hard to say what we ever got out of that bit of show and bombast.

Nigeria became rich and powerful (before going back to being poor and petulant), but no trade developed, there was no exchange of cultures, and the one or two trips made by artistes never really opened the floodgates of exchange.

Williams also visited the United States and met with President Gerald Ford and the most memorable aspect of the visit is that Williams sulked and picked his nails.

Remember when the newly elected Williams went in great glory to Venezuela? It was to be even more successful than the topee-tambo canning plants he promised way back in 1956. His good friend, Governor Enrique Tejera Parris, showed him all the advances in Estado Sucre, a sardine canning plant that announced its presence kilometres away, and the military barracks at Guiria where Trinidad and Tobago fishermen are frequently incarcerated. But despite the friendship and the subsequent years, fishing accords remain on tenterhooks.

He also went to Caracas and Carabobo, visited famous monuments, and went arm-in-arm to the race track with John O'Halloran. All we got out of that visit was an idea for a race track that lies dead in Caroni. O'Halloran subsequently went looking for cockpits but was forced to return to Circulo Militar without seeing any.

And as for the visit to President Romulo Betancourt in Casa Amarilla, a fat nothing has come out of it because the two countries are as far apart as ever and the ebullient, jaunty Eric Williams who returned announcing that Venezuelans will learn more about Trinidad and Tobago, and more Trinidadians will learn Spanish tipped away from the idea as the years went by. It was a nice sightseeing tour of Venezuela.

And how much better did Chambers fare in Jamaica? His high-point was a developing camaraderie — a surprising step for his normally introverted personality — with a little clique including Maurice Bishop. Lyndon Pindling, George Price and of course Field Marshall Burnham. Maurice Bishop has since been killed. Pindling narrowly escaped being caught-up in a Mafia scandal. The public in Belize threw out George Price. And durable Burnham continues reigning over his impoverished and tattered empire. Our Georgie certainly knows how to pick them.

LEADERSHIP

And now that Trinidad and Tobago is in serious economic plight and in need of deliverance and leadership, the man

appointed to do the job is finding it fit to go on a world tour. One would have thought that being a protege of a prominent historian, he would have learnt from history. That these high-falutin trips are filled with pomp and circumstance but, alas, no results.

Prime Ministerial trips bring focus, but precious little results. The action comes when Ministers at the appropriate levels visit their counterparts in the host countries. When they do, there is no time for all the honour guards, drum-beating, salutes and the endless laying of wreaths. Away from the pomposity, the Ministers get down to work, and even though Trinidad and Tobago's Ministers in Industry and Commerce, and External Affairs will be going along on the jaunt, they will certainly get caught up in all the protocol and the diplomatic niceties and instead of indulging in long hours negotiating and working, they will be busy "tripping the light fantastic" at cocktails and other boring sessions.

Most persons agree with Basdeo Panday who said that Errol Mahabir and Wendell Mottley should be the ones to spearhead the trip with one or two aides leaving the dependable George to attend to more important matters in Trinidad and Tobago.

This column never claimed infallibility. It is quite possible that the prognostications could be wrong. We challenge Prime Minister Chambers to prove us wrong. In so doing, he should be prepared to disclose ALL the facts, and not vague outlines as his Government habitually projects on delicate issues like ISCOTT.

CSO: 3298/847

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

EX-UNION LEADER ALS DISCUSSES HIS ROLE IN POLITICS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 85 pp 14, 23, 27

[Excerpts]

MICHAEL ALS has resigned as President-General of the Bank and General Workers Union, after 10 years, to build a literary and political career.

"I made a choice about what I was going to do. I decided that my political and literary pursuits would take up too much time and it wouldn't be fair to other members of the union to have its principal leader and its organisation subject to the pleasures of the president.

"My mission (in the BGWU) has been accomplished. We have built a stable union; I believe the present leadership is competent enough to carry out the business," he said, sitting comfortably in the conference room at the BGWU headquarters at Laventille.

Sunday Express: What about your political activities?

Als: "Since I was a young man, I have been involved in the political process in Trinidad and Tobago. I see politics, not simply as a battle for office and elections, but as a way of using the economic, social and political realities to stimulate change. That is why the issue of political change, as well as the quality of that change has preoccupied my mind from youth. People perceive me as a radical, a revolutionary and a communist — someone who wants to overturn the system.

"I believe the system will be overturned. And the older I get, the more convinced I become that my historical mission is to direct my energies towards this end."

Als' home environment played a vital part in his political maturity.

"The question of the West Indian Federation absorbed me as a youth," said Als, who, "at an early age" had read *Freedom*, by Cheddi Jagan, *I speak of*

Freedom by Kwame Nkrumah, *The Red Star Over China*, by Edgar Snow (a book on the Chinese revolution) and the autobiographies of most of the world leaders.

"I didn't miss the civil rights movement in the United States either. There wasn't a publication on the period that I didn't read. The movement confirmed in me the need for social justice. Martin Luther King, Stokely Carmichael, Malcolm X, Angela Davis had a tremendous influence over me."

But where is Michael Als heading politically?

"I am chairman of the People's Popular Movement (PPM) which is a progressive, anti-imperialist movement. But at the same time, we are working towards the establishment of a coalition of all the progressive, democratic and anti-imperialist individuals and organisations. We just had a congress of the PPM to draft our line of activity over the next five years. We believe that the PNM's (People's National Movement) reign is coming to a close and the era of the masses is beginning to unfold."

This does not mean, however, that the PPM will be contesting the 1986 elections.

"That is an issue," Als says, "that will have to be determined by conditions of the time as well as our ability to complete the establishment of the coalition of forces about which I talked. But I strongly believe that the PNM will be in the Opposition after the 1986 elections."

Sunday Express: So you think that the NAR (National Organisation for Restructuring) will win the next election?

Als: "I didn't say that. I am saying that the PNM will lose, and when this happens, the politics in this country will open up, because the institution that is holding up progress will be removed

"Of course, some of the individuals and organisations that oppose the PNM are of the same bourgeois ideological outlook. Because of this, the working people have to be careful that they do not subvert their own welfare when choosing a group."

Sunday Express: Do you have any particular groups in mind?

Als: "I am not getting into that. I am simply stating the social reality."

Sunday Express: What has your party been doing in the communities?

Als: "We have been active in some communities. However, our organisation has been heavily discriminated against by the media forces. We are not worried about that. With our combination of forces, the media, like it or not, will have to take us on. Moonlight is king only until daylight."

Sunday Express: What were you doing in Grenada in October 1983?

Als: "I was very close to all the participants in the Grenada Revolution; I knew all of them personally; we shared ideological orientation. Because of my understanding of social progress and because of the rare opportunity that comes to a people from time to time, even with the death of Maurice Bishop, I felt that the revolution could have continued. My preoccupation in October 1983 was not with myself, but with the survival of the Grenada Revolution."

"I am prepared to admit now that it was an error of political judgment on my part. Fidel (Castro) was correct and I was wrong. Without Maurice, there could have been no revolution. Maurice had told me there were four pillars of the revolution: a) NJM (New Jewel Movement); b) PRG (People's Revolution Government); c) PRA (People's Revolutionary Army); d) the masses. But there was a fifth element, perhaps the most important, which he overlooked and that was Maurice Bishop."

Sunday Express: Do you feel that this fiasco will continue to cripple your popularity as a politician?

Als: "I am certain that the issue will come up from time to time. But I am not afraid of criticism on this matter. I believe in dealing with criticism up front. Our union has always dealt with people up front. If we couldn't help a worker we'd tell him early in the game. It is not safe in the long run to deceive people. Things will eventually catch up with you ... like how DEWD has caught up with the PNM."

Sunday Express: Have you travelled to Grenada since 1983?

Als: "No. I hear they have my name on some list of persons who are not allowed to enter the country."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SAN FERNANDO WORKERS STORM COUNCIL, DEMAND MAYOR QUIT

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Jun 85 p 64

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text] **SCORES of protesting workers stormed the San Fernando Town Hall and interrupted the statutory meeting of the Borough Council, calling for the resignation of Mayor Rakeeb Hosein.**

The angry mob broke a line of policemen and forced its way into the Town Hall and up the second floor where the meeting was being presided over by Mayor Hosein. The protestors shouted and booed as they entered the hall. The meeting was interrupted for about 20 minutes while Mayor Hosein remained firmly in the chair. After it resumed, some of the workers kept interrupting, demanding that the councillors speak loudly while conducting business around the horse-shoe table.

After about 40 minutes, the protestors, realising that Mayor Hosein was not about to deal with their issue, made a noisy exit. They continued, however, a noisy barrage of cat calls, union songs and demands for Hosein's resignation.

Shortly afterwards, the workers were supported by a convoy of garbage trucks which passed slowly in front of the Town Hall honking horns while the workers maintained the noisy uproar. Inside the Town Hall the council meeting had to be unofficially suspended because councillors could not hear each other. It resumed after the convoy had moved away.

The problem arose after Mayor Hosein was instructed by the council to inspect the employment list of casual workers employed by the council. Mayor Hosein had refused to approve the list after he observed that some workers on the 10-day projects were permitted continuous work at the expense of others. Mayor Hosein said he had observed that persons from Port of Spain, Cedros and other parts of the country had been entered on the list. He said this was not fair to the casual workers in San Fernando.

Mayor Hosein said it was because of this discovery that the council decided that he vet the list before authorising the personnel department to employ workers. Hosein said if this system had continued, the council would have found itself without money to pay workers. Hosein said he had requested that this list be submitted to him for approval two weeks in advance of employment. He said the administration ignored this request.

Sensing a problem with the union by this move, Mayor Hosein invited Contractors and General Workers Trade Union leader Owen Hinds to discuss the matter. But yesterday when Hinds turned up with officials of the union for the meeting, Hosein abruptly cancelled it.

Later, Hosein explained that the meeting was arranged for the Mayor, Hinds and acting town clerk Thelma Graham to discuss the issue but union officials were never invited to that meeting.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TOBAGO ASSEMBLY ADOPTS BUDGET ESTIMATES, NO PROJECTIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 85 p 64

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

BUDGETING history was created yesterday when the Tobago House of Assembly passed its 1986 Estimates of Expenditure without providing financial projections under the various heads of development.

This unprecedented step was taken because, according to Dr Jeff Davidson, the deputy chairman, the Assembly's financial experts could provide them with no meaningful estimates based on this year's operations and that of previous years.

Assembly Chairman A.N.R. Robinson had drawn the problem to the attention of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance George Chambers in a letter dated June 14, and had asked for a meeting to "discuss the critical situation and to obtain guidance in the preparation of the 1986 estimates."

But only yesterday was a reply received and it came from Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, with responsibility for

administration of Tobago, in which he said that "the Assembly was being treated no less favourably than any other ministry, department or statutory authority in the context of the existing stringent financial climate."

Jacelon, who was replying for the Prime Minister, said that he has ordered an investigation into the ministry's financial relationship with the Assembly and added that two senior officials would visit Tobago shortly to conduct similar enquiries at the Central Administrative Services Tobago (CAST).

So at yesterday's meeting, the Assembly went ahead and passed its estimates, providing figures only for its Recurrent Expenditure, totalling \$227,657,560 but none for development.

The estimates had to be approved because, according to the law, the Assembly must submit them to the Minister of Finance by June 30.

But the Assembly has prepared its Recurrent Expenditure since this was predictable and not subject to the whims of finance ministry officials. They will be submitted in keeping with the legal deadline of June 30, he assured.

CSO: 3298/822

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LABOR'S DIFFERENCES WITH GOVERNMENT GET AIRING

Weekes on Government Maneuvers

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 19 Jun 85 p 64

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union leader George Weekes yesterday accused the PNM of encouraging the disunity of the labour movement for its own political purpose, pointing out that the government was in fear of a united labour organisation.

Weekes made the comment in an interview with the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk to mark the 1985 Labour Day celebrations. The OWTU is a unit of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions which invariably refers to June 19 as Butler Day in honour of labour hero Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler who led a workers' rebellion in Fyzabad 48 years ago today.

Butler died in February 1977 and his grave at the Apex cemetery is now a virtual workers' shrine with special ceremonies conducted there since then.

To support his accusations, Weekes charged that Labour Minister John Donaldson ignored a request from the CPTU for joint representation with the Labour Congress at the International La-

bour Organisation (ILO) conference currently in session in Geneva. But instead, the minister allowed only the Labour Congress to be included on the official delegation. Weekes said the minister did not respond to the CPTU's request.

Weekes said there was a suggestion that representation at the ILO's conference be rotated between the Congress and the CPTU. He said the CPTU suggested joint representation as an alternative. Weekes said it would have been in the best interest of the country and the labour movement to have a joint delegation at the conference.

The OWTU leader said that the government had either deliberately or by design barred the CPTU from representation on the boards of state companies. He said only one CPTU-affiliated union had been represented on the board of a state company.

He identified this union as the Islandwide Cane Farmers Trade Union led by Raffique Shah which has a representative on Caroni Limited. Weekes said the Government defiantly refused to nomi-

nate labour representation on the new board of state-owned Trintoc.

On the question of labour unity, Weekes said the CPTU had always called for dialogue. He said there were no barriers to this unity yet it had eluded both sides.

Said Weekes: "We will continue to keep the door open for meaningful dialogue aimed at unity. We have been trying at the level of the CPTU. If today that unity has eluded us, it is not because of the want of trying."

Said Weekes: "It must be an industrial crime for anyone to stand in the way of unity. What we have noticed in the past is that there are lots of talk of unity but people use the simplest excuse to postpone a final decision. We in the CPTU are willing and prepared to take the initiative because we know that a united trade union movement will be in the best interest of both the country and the workers."

Weekes said that the politics of the future demanded a united labour movement. He said that the fact that employers were uniting under one umbrella should hasten the unity process.

24 July 1985

Strike Call

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

THE Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress served notice that it will shut down the country for one day next month if state-owned Caroni Ltd refused to withdraw the appeal against the Industrial Court wage award to sugar workers.

The Labour Congress was pressured to take action after thousands of workers attending the Labour Day celebrations in the Rienzi Complex in Couva unanimously voted to support a one-day strike. Congress will implement this decision after discussions at its regular meeting next month.

The question of a one-day strike was put to the workers shortly after Opposition leader and president general of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union Basdeo Panday accused Congress of refusing to take positive

and stern measures to have the matter resolved. Panday said that Congress should tell Caroni Ltd "in no uncertain terms" to withdraw the appeal or face a one-day general strike in the country.

Panday told the crowd that unless Congress served this ultimatum to the Government in an effort to have the matter resolved, he would reconsider his position on the executive of Congress and even consider withdrawing his union's affiliation to the movement. Panday's militant outburst met with sustained applause from the overflowing Rienzi Hall.

Said Panday: "Here you have a state-owned company appealing a decision of the Industrial Court which was set up to protect workers and denying sugar workers a decent wage increase and we don't have a one-day strike yet!"

Support for Strike

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

OILFIELD Workers Trade Union George Weekes yesterday pledged support to the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress in any move to call a one-day general strike to protest the refusal of state-owned Caroni Limited to withdraw an appeal.

Weekes told the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk that the OWTU had strongly condemned the action of Caroni Limited in appealing the wage decision of the Industrial Court. He said that Caroni Limited as the largest employer after the Government was showing a "bad example" in industrial relations.

Said Weekes: "We have always advocated united action to deal

with some of the issues facing workers. We are prepared to support any action to force the company to withdraw the appeal."

Weekes said that as soon as Congress took the decision it should inform the OWTU who will at once lend support.

Weekes said that any decision to call the one-day general strike must be accompanied by mass meetings throughout the country to mobilise support. He urged that these meetings be jointly sponsored by the Council of Progressive Trade Unions and the Congress. On Labour Day Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday called on Congress to initiate a one-day strike if Caroni refused to withdraw the appeal now before the Court of Appeal.

Protest Fracas

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 85 p 40

[Article by Omatie Lyder]

[Text] A riot almost erupted yesterday as scores of locked out workers were forcibly removed by members of the Police Tactical Unit as they chanted in protest against retrenchment and non-payment of severance benefits outside the gates of Amalgamated Industries Ltd in Arima.

The melee occurred after a scheduled meeting between the workers' representatives, the Transport and Industrial Workers Union and the company failed to materialise.

Amalgamated's general manager, P.H. Frearson, wrote a letter to TIWU vice president Desmond Bishop, stating that work had ceased on the company, union and officials of the Ministry of Labour meet today at 2 p.m. at the ministry. This came after four hours of chanting by the workers outside the company's gates; however, a representative of the company declined to comment when questioned through the locked gates yesterday morning.

Work will resume pending the outcome of this meeting today. Locked out workers who had to retrieve their belongings from inside the premises were allowed in after the letter was read to them about 1 p.m. yesterday.

Earlier members of the Tactical Squad, who were on standby, moved in on the protesting workers as the 12 o'clock siren sounded for lunch, and shoved them to the other side of the road.

Armed with wooden batons and with guns in holsters, about 24 policemen formed a barricade around the protesting workers as they chanted "We want we money" on the other side of the road. One worker comically drew a line between the policemen and the workers to separate them.

Senior police officers on the scene refused to comment on the forcible removal of the workers by the tactical men.

Bishop as well as other union officials were inside the company's compound trying to meet with the management of the company as early as 8 a.m. yesterday.

The Ministry of Labour had reportedly phoned the union earlier requesting to act as a mediator between the company and the union but the request was rejected by Bishop.

Already 212 workers were retrenched in March this year and the company plans to retrench another 323 as from Friday, June 28, 1985.

According to Albert Aberdeen, chief grievance officer of the union, about 60 to 80 workers were locked out following a 15-minute break at 9 a.m. yesterday. He explained that last week the company sent all its workers home for two weeks but invited about 300 workers back to work yesterday morning.

At the time of the incident, the workers had gathered outside the gates of the company and were being addressed by Aberdeen.

Aberdeen also charged that the company was already starting to retrench the remaining workers despite the fact that it was not June 28 as yet.

"It is either they employ them or pay them. It is a ridiculous situation. The company is keeping entitled money and workers cannot pay their rent," he said.

He added that the workers did not do anything to be locked out. "When the whistle blew and the workers started to enter the premises, some were locked out. It's illegal," he declared.

Members of the media were refused entry into the compound. One security guard said it was against the instructions of the company's management to allow reporters in.

Union officials inside the premises who were seeking a meeting with management were not allowed to leave the compound, Bishop said, from behind the locked gates, he was prepared to sleep overnight on the compound if it had become necessary.

Weekes on Union Divisions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Jun 85 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

MR. GEORGE WEEKES, president general of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union and a member of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU), has declared that the refusal of officials of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) "to take the late Mr. Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler genuinely into their hearts in the early days of the labour movement," still stood today in the way of unity in the labour movement.

Following Labour Day celebrations last week, he was asked what he considered the main obstacles to unity and why were there two separate celebrations on Labour Day.

He replied thus:

"In the trade union movement there were honest radicals who stood

strongly for the workers' rights and there were those who were opportunists who rode on the workers' backs to get into Parliament. It is against that background that the explosion took place on June 19, 1937, when attempts were made by the police to arrest Butler, an honest radical.

"The revolt developed into a revolution, resulting in death of many people. That radical position by Butler was in direct opposition to conservative opportunist leaders and that created a division."

It was in 1962 when the rebel movement in OWTU came into office under Mr. Weekes that the union joined with Butler in celebrating June 19. No other trade union leaders in the old TUC joined.

Mr. Weekes went on:
"I have had private discussions with TUC leaders and they only made promises to talk about the problems of workers in the country. Those promises never materialised.

"Anybody sympathetic towards uniting the labour movement who has the interest of the workers at heart, will meet with us and discuss problems.

"Division in the labour movement only helps managers of industries to encourage retrenchment and to oppress workers as a result.

"I have no doubt that because of disunity there will be a social explosion. Only a strong united labour

movement could prevent that. I invite the TUC to meet with the CPTU and other leaders to hold discussions on the problems. We of the CPTU are prepared to meet.

"Further, the division of the labour movement has to do with the political situation as far back as the 1930s when the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Party in which the trade union leaders split with the late Andrew Arthur Cipriani and went different ways."

"So it was not until 1972 that Government sought to get rid of May Day and the TUC joined in getting the change from May Day to June 19.

Retrenchment at Amalgamated

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 85 p 64

[Text]

THE Transport and Industrial Workers Union yesterday failed in its bid to stop today's retrenchment of 323 workers at Amalgamated Industries Ltd.

At a meeting between the parties yesterday, TIWU contended that the company was in violation of the industrial contract in retrenching 118 of the workers and the company should stay its hand until the issue had been settled.

The company declined to comment after the meeting except to say that it would "get back to the union."

According to Albert Aberdeen, TIWU's chief grievance officer, the company had deliberately retrenched 17 of the union's branch officers and shop stewards and had not retrenched the other workers in order of seniority as is laid out in the industrial contract.

"We told them that seeing the matter of full severance payment and the selection of persons had not been settled, they ought not to proceed with the retrenchment as planned. But they will be going ahead anyway," he said glumly.

Yesterday's meeting took place without the assistance of the Ministry of Labour which thought the parties were in a better position to deal with the issue of the selection of persons for retrenchment.

The union is insisting that the workers be paid their full severance benefits which amount to \$10.5 million, but the company has declared it "impossible" for the full payment to be made. It had originally planned to pay the workers in three instalments over three years but, after pressure from the union, decided on Wednesday to review the method of payment "at a later date."

CSO: 3298/823

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

RESERVATIONS CITED IN PRELUDE TO CARICOM MEETING

Mottley's Absence

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 85 p 1

[Excerpts]

THE absence of Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Wendell Mottley, from the Caricom Council of Ministers meeting at Sam Lord's Castle in Barbados has aroused considerable speculation.

When Grenadian Prime Minister Herbert Blaize took the chair at yesterday morning's opening session, Trinidad and Tobago was represented by its newly appointed Ambassador to Barbados, Reginald Dumas, along with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Reynold Rampersad, and Special Adviser Cecil Wyke.

Amidst tight security at the hotel, the ministers set about laying the foundation for Monday's summit, the tone for which has been set by the host Prime Minister's attack on his counterparts in a radio interview earlier this week.

In it he accused Trinidad and Tobago of indulging in "naked protectionism" and charged that the Nassau Accords which were agreed upon at the last summit in the Bahamas had been largely ignored. Another pall on the proceedings has been cast by the decision of Antigua/Barbuda and Grenada to go ahead with their own airlines irrespective of agreements reached with BWIA.

Criticism of Neighbors' Actions

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 27 Jun 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

IT IS not unreasonable to expect that the Heads of Government summit in Barbados next week will be the scene of hot tempers and angry words over the issue of air transport and the future of British West Indian Airways as the regional air carrier. The Trinidad and Tobago Government has been considering, in fact, a proposal by Industry and Commerce Minister Wendell Mottley calling for a review of the Treaty of Chaguaramas because widespread belief nowadays is that the country is not benefiting from its relationships with Caricom member states.

Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St. John touched on the subject of a "delinquent" Trinidad and Tobago in an interview on state-owned CBC radio on Tuesday night when he accused Trinidad and Tobago, among others, of failing to implement measures agreed on at the last summit in Nassau to revive intra-regional trade. Mr. St. John went further, indeed, and accused Trinidad and Tobago, Caricom's biggest market, of practising "naked protectionism" in some instances. But Mr. St. John avoided, it seemed, any mention of the torpedoing of BWIA by Caricom leaders.

Perhaps, with good reason. Barbados was the first country to adopt a hostile position against BWIA last year. Its claim then was that it was protecting its own airline, Caribbean Airways. BWIA was warned that its fifth freedom rights would be terminated and that it would be barred from flying the London-Barbados route on the same day as CA. But although the dispute has not been settled, an uneasy truce has been made and BWIA has been allowed to carry on. It has even accepted designation from Barbados on some of its American routes.

This deplorable situation — the brittleness of any agreement with Caricom governments over the future of BWIA — was dramatised last week by the report that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda had gone into a partnership with British Airways which will knock out BWIA as the designated air carrier between Antigua and London. The Antiguan government has made its position clear: it believes that BA can assist it more than BWIA if the latter is forced to fly into Gatwick. In other words, as Barbados was poised to do last year, it has turned its back on the support which BWIA has given its

tourist industry for the past 30 years.

Of course, the CANA report that "Grenada has begun discussions with a French company about the possibility of establishing its own national airline" is less surprising. Grenada may think, indeed, that it owes Trinidad and Tobago no favours because of its stance against the October 1983 invasion. But the truth is, beneath the veneer of pride and emotion that may have precipitated such discussions is the same kind of naivete and selfishness which have divided the region and prolonged its under-development.

The governments' position is, naturally, that this action is in the interest of their people: the creation of jobs, the provision of new revenues, and an improvement in the quality of life for all its citizens. Grenada's Civil Aviation Minister Dr Keith Mitchell says, for example, that a national airline will improve "the marketing of the island's agricultural commodities." Nobody, it

seems, sees it for what it really is: a betrayal of Caribbean interests.

Perhaps naively, the Trinidad and Tobago Government has strained to protect these interests and has not shirked its "big brother" responsibility in the region. When other airlines cut back or completely abandoned schedules in the Caribbean, BWIA went out on a limb to maintain flights. In his budget presentation of 1974, Prime Minister George Chambers who was then Minister of Finance, stated: "The Government is making a determined effort through British West Indian Airways to support the Caribbean tourist industry... which is currently being threatened through cancellation of flights."

This is the kind of commitment Trinidad and Tobago has always had to Caribbean unity and to regional advancement, but it has not been reciprocated. Who can really blame us now for saying: The hell with it!

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

VENEZUELA WANTS BOUNDARY ACCORD IN FISHING PACT

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

VENEZUELAN Ambassador Maria Clemencia Lopez-Jiminez said her government wanted a delimitation boundary understanding to be included in the fishing treaty which is still to be concluded by both governments.

In an interview with the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk last week, Ambassador Lopez-Jiminez said that while the Venezuelan Government wanted the delimitation agreement as part of the fishing treaty, that was not the reason for the delay in concluding the treaty. She said Venezuela was simply claiming an "equitable boundary in the waters separating our countries in the Gulf." She pointed out that because of the short distance separating both countries, such a claim would not pose any problem.

On the question of the exploration of the fishing treaty, Ambassador Lopez-Jiminez advised Cedros fishermen to be cautious while fishing in the Gulf. She said that the fishing treaty between both countries is yet to be concluded. The ambassador said she saw no problem with the Venezuelan authorities if local fishermen fished in the areas designated under the expired fishing agreement in the absence of valid fishing passes.

Said Lopez-Jiminez: "I am deeply concerned about the delay in concluding the agreement. There are some minor technical details which are holding back the treaty but these are too minor to pose any problems. I hope that Minister Mahabir (External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir) will be able to attend this matter."

CSO: 3298/824

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES DIP, TRADE SCORES SURPLUS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text] Constant drop in foreign exchange reserves continues to be a worrisome national problem, plunging by \$747 million (26.3 percent) for the first three months of this year.

Reserves stood at \$2,092.8 million at the end of March compared with the year-end 1984 stock of \$2,839.8 million.

This is revealed in the Quarterly Economic Bulletin of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago for the period January to March 1985. The publication discloses a mixture of positive and negative performances in the overall economy.

Some positive aspects or bright sparks:

--A sharp turn-around in recording a \$610.3 million international trade surplus for 1984 compared with a 1983 deficit of \$550.3 million. A surplus of \$44 million in January has led to the projection of a favourable balance of trade for the quarter.

--A 2.6 percent rise in consumer prices for January-March this year was the lowest first quarter increase since 1978 and way below the 6.8 percent upward swing for the first three months of 1984.

--Significant increases in the production of fruit vegetables and other food crops including tomatoes, cabbages and sweet peppers in early 1985 "partly due to favourable weather conditions."

Positive Adjustment

The Bulletin noted that available indicators for the first quarter of 1985 "suggest that while the economy is continuing to contract, the process of adjustment has begun to have some positive effects."

It stated that in comparison with the corresponding period last year, "the rate of increase in prices appears to have slowed appreciably to a 10.8 percent annual rate. The year-on-year inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 1985 was nine percent.

"In addition to the favourable trend in prices, the rate of decline in foreign exchange reserves has slowed and the merchandise balance remains positive.

"Credit conditions in the banking system remain tight. The stance of fiscal policy also continues to be contradictory as Government's cash flow deficit (\$987.8 million) was lower than that of the first quarter of 1984."

It was explained: "However, production in the heavy industries--crude petroleum, iron and steel and fertiliser--faltered in the first quarter of 1985.

"Indications are however, that the fall in output in these areas is temporary and is likely to be reversed during the second quarter."

Crude oil production estimated at 15.8 million barrels for January-March 1985 topped the corresponding period for 1984, but was 1.4 percent or 200,000 barrels lower than the final three months of 1984.

Revenue collected by Government for January-March 1985 amounted to \$1,163.9 million which was 14.9 percent higher than the \$1,013.4 million for the first quarter in 1984. Money spent for the initial three-month period this year, however, was \$2,151.7 million including \$175 million towards acquisition of assets of Texaco Trinidad Incorporated.

The national fiscal deficit of \$987.7 million was financed mainly by a drawn-down of \$776.8 million from Government's deposit accounts at the Central Bank. The remaining \$210 million-plus was financed through local and foreign loans.

The Bulletin stated there appeared to be an improvement in the ability of finance houses to hold deposits.

Loss of deposits "in the fourth quarter of 1984 was "12.4 million, compared with \$26.6 million in the third quarter.

"Preliminary data indicate that deposits held by finance companies fell by just \$4.6 million (0.5 percent) in the three-month period ending February 1985."

CSO: 3298/824

24 July 1985

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CENTRAL BANK'S FOREIGN INVESTMENT EARNINGS DOWN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Jun 85 p 18

[Text]

INTEREST earned on foreign investments by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago dipped to \$65.8 million for the first three months of 1985. This was \$40.6 million less than the \$116.4 million gained by the bank from overseas investments for the first quarter of 1984.

The steep drop in investment income is recorded in the Quarterly Economic Bulletin of the bank for the period January to March 1985.

The Bulletin points out: "This reflects the decline in the bank's foreign reserves which averaged \$3,315.5 million over the four quarters of 1984....35.5 per cent less than the quarterly average in 1983."

Foreign reserves held by the Central Bank fell by \$785.7 million from year-end 1984 of just over \$3,000 million to \$2,222.4 million in March this year.

Dealing with the overall national economy, the publication noted that oil taxes and royalties for the first quarter of 1985 totalled \$117.9 million. This topped by \$14.3 million the \$103.3 million over the same period for 1984.

Other sectors: **CARICOM TRADE**---A favourable balance of \$154.7 million in regional trade was achieved in 1984 representing a substantial (\$69.6 million) improvement on the \$85.1 million 1983 surplus. It was still well below the surplus of \$262.3 million recorded in 1982.

Total trade between Trinidad and Tobago with its Caricom partners declined for the past two years reaching \$829.7 million last year. This 11.7 per cent below the 1983 figure of \$939.9 million.

MONEY AND FINANCE----

Deposits in commercial banks fell by 2.1 per cent (\$158.7 million) during January-February 1985 following a 2.6 per cent (\$195.6 million) increase during October-December 1984. It also contrasted with a \$102 million increase in deposits in January-February 1984.

Credit extended by banks grew by just 1.2 per cent totalling \$84.2 million for the first two months of 1985. A slight improvement in the tight liquidity of the banking system in which surplus financial resources averaged 0.07 per cent during January-March this year, compared with minus 0.7 per cent in final three months last year.

CSO: 3298/824

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DEVELOPMENTS ON PETROLEUM FRONT REPORTED

TRINTOC Crude Situation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jun 85 p 4

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) will concentrate on the processing of local crude to meet the combined refinery capacity of 305,000 barrels per day.

At present, the company's capacity is made up of 220,000 barrels per day at Pointe-a-Pierre and 85,000 barrels at Point Fortin. But the total crude oil available to Trintoc is only 75,000 barrels per day.

"This is an area which obviously has to be addressed urgently," Walton James, Managing Director, disclosed in "Pipeline", the company's organ. "Some thought has been given to this, and over the last few months we have, in fact, been engaged in discussions with a number of people who are interested in entering into processing arrangements."

Trintoc will continue to operate both refineries and the crude available will be shared between them.

"The other area that we have to look at in order to give quick returns to any investment which we make is the ex-Texaco land-producing fields. We have already put in train the necessary approval to commence the workover of wells on which the crude oil production has declined."

SUCCESS

Mr W. Andrew Rose, chairman, said since the takeover on March 30, public reaction has been mixed. There are the eternal pessimist and the optimist who think Government can do no wrong. Both, he argued cannot be simultaneously right.

Describing how he saw the future, Mr. Rose began by pointing out that in 1969 British Petroleum Limited decided its operations here were no longer profitable and wished to close them.

Government, motivated out of concern for workers, the chairman said, purchased B.P. which resulted in the incorporation of Trinidad-Tesoro — whose success no one can doubt.

In 1974, Shell (Trinidad) Limited, for similar reasons, closed its operations and Government again negotiated its purchase setting up Trintoc — no one can challenge its success.

In 1985, he continued, for more or less the same reasons, the Government purchased the assets of Texaco and he asked himself why should there not be a similar success story.

While the project is by far the largest Government has undertaken, Trinidad and Tobago begins with a number of advantages.

"Trinidad is one of the oldest oil producing countries in the world," Mr. Rose noted. "During the 90-odd years of exposure of our people to the technology of the oil indus-

try, we have developed a competence which has resulted in Trinidadians being employed at all levels worldwide wherever the petroleum industry exists. Moreover, here in

Trinidad, many of the advanced techniques in the industry were developed with the aid of Trinidadians."

In addition, the physical resources both land and marine remain to be more vigorously exploited and explored. The relationship between the state-owned petroleum companies and the Oilfields Workers Trade Union has been most cordial and co-operative.

Both parties have met three times — twice to discuss an agreement for hourly and weekly paid and once for the junior staff monthly rated.

Petroleum Bill

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Jun 85 p 56

[Article by David Renwick]

[Text]

A CRESTFALLEN Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, disconsolately trailed out of the Senate at the end of its brief one-hour sitting yesterday, having been denied the opportunity to speak on the Petroleum Taxes (Amendment) Bill.

The reason: unlike their colleagues in the House a fortnight ago, no Opposition member in the Senate chose to rise and respond to Minister Anthony Jacelon's brief outline of the bill's fiscal measures and the objectives behind them. Manning had come especially to deal with the broader petroleum policy aspects of the debate, if such should arise.

Senate President Dr Wahid Ali seemed taken aback by the lack of debate on a bill that could have far-reaching results beneficial to the Trinidad and Tobago economy if the oil companies take advantage of the fiscal concessions as they have said they will. "Senator Horne?" he enquired, hopefully, expecting the normally talkative Independent to rise. But she smiled apologetically and remained in her seat. Even her fellow Independent, Senator Alwin Chow, who could be expected to have a close interest in petroleum matters now that he sits on

the board of the new Trintoc, remained silent (he explained afterwards that he had no time to prepare for the debate, having been busily engaged in preparing other speeches for delivery at public fora this week).

The committee stage of the bill proved equally tranquil. Only Senator Gerald Furness-Smith (Independent) had a faint query about Clause Seven but his mind was quickly set at rest by Senator Jacelon. He was also mildly concerned about the use of Arabic rather than Roman numerals in the numbering of sections of the bill. Attorney General Russell Martineau explained that the Arabic style was now the norm but he would ask the Law Commission to look into the question of consistency in such matters.

The Petroleum Taxes (Amendment) Bill, which will shortly become law after the presidential assent, since it has now passed through both houses, gives a boost to the cash flow of oil companies operating in marine areas by increasing, and improving, the allowances they can claim against the taxation they are required to pay on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

The Senate has been adjourned "to a date to be fixed."

New Amoco Rig

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] AMOCO Trinidad Oil Company has contracted the services of an additional repair and re-completion rig for its offshore operations at a cost of \$65 million (T.T.), Robert Powers, the company's president and general manager, announced yesterday.

When the rig starts its operation in September as proposed, it is expected to provide approximately 72 jobs, in addition to the support staff required onshore.

Powers said that the rig was engaged for 18 months and is in addition to the rig programme recently agreed to by Amoco and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in Government's move to stimulate a new surge of activity in the petroleum industry.

He explained that the company's fleet of rigs was being increased from three to four in an effort to bring new oil on production and assist in arresting decline in future production. The new rig, which will be Santana of Trinidad and Tobago, will achieve this principally through the efficient servicing of old wells and by repairing or replacing faulty equipment and bringing new oil on production.

The comparatively new rig, Rig 451, is almost a twin to an older rig (Rig 418), which has been operating in Amoco's offshore fields for approximately 10 years and because of this, offers the advantages of common spares.

Point Lisas Revenues

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Jun 85 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
GROSS FOREIGN revenue from operations at Point Lisas last year was \$225.6 million (US). This year the figure is expected to reach \$316 million (US).

Dr. Ken. Julien, chairman of the National Energy Corporation told this to members of the South and Central Divisions of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday when they toured the industrial estate.

He said that Iscott contributed \$56.1 million in 1984 with an expectant \$65 million in 1985.

Fertrin's contribution was \$125 million in 1984 and \$124 million for 1985, with urea contributing \$16.5 million in 1984 and \$83 million in 1985 and methanol \$28 million and \$44 million.

According to Dr. Julien, one of the extraordinary things about Point Lisas was that while one heard all sorts of adverse criticisms, no one had taken the trouble to point to any of the "positive elements associated with its operations."

In addition to the figures above, the \$2 billion (TT) had been "injected directly into the country's economy with \$200 million coming from direct gross wages, \$1,500 million from local firms and contractors, \$100 million from the local banks, \$250 million from the purchase of natural gas and finally, \$75 million from payments to Government.

Dr. Julien, like Mr. Ken Snaggs, Executive Director of PILPDECO and Mr. Hugh Howard, new chairman of the Board, spoke of the "efficiency" of the Point Lisas Port.

Mr. Snaggs said that the port was efficient and its turnaround most encouraging.

Promising Wells

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Jun 85 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

RENEWED drilling by Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc) in the Barrackpore area has returned promising results and arrested the production decline.

At the moment, two wells are flowing at a combined rate of 800 barrels a day (BPD).

A Trintoc spokesman said yesterday Well No. 512 completed in May, is flowing oil at the rate of 500 barrels a day while Well No. 513 which was recently completed is flowing at the rate of 300 barrels per day.

Drilling activity has picked up in the Barrackpore fields as the expanded Trintoc launched its exploration and production programme for 1985.

A total of ten development wells is programmed for the rest of the year.

CSO: 3298/825

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MANUFACTURERS CALL FOR REGIONAL TRADE 'NEGATIVE LIST'

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 30 Jun 85 p 16

[Text]

THE Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association, on the eve of the Caricom Heads of Government Summit opening in Barbados tomorrow, yesterday issued a statement calling for a regional Negative List and some form of currency alignment. The TTMA has said that the Caricom Treaty must be modified and strengthened if the movement is to go forward.

The statement said that the Barbados meeting was expected to review the trading situation in Caricom and in particular assess the status of implementation of the Nassau Agreement and the efficacy and efficiency of the measures adopted at the Nassau meeting.

NOT SURPRISING

The TTMA said, however, that in view of the differences in economic conditions in the individual Caricom territories it was not surprising that the Nassau Agreement had not yet been fully implemented by all territories and that its contribution to restoration of trade in the region cannot be assessed at this week's meeting.

The TTMA statement emphasised the current trading situation with our major partners in the region since the Nassau Agreement and concluded that the measures adopted in Nassau do not address the fundamental problems of Caricom, hence its call for some

modification by the inclusion of a regional Negative List, and consideration of a recent review of the Rules of Origin, which it said were of urgent priority.

With regard to Guyana, the TTMA said that country continues to be beset by internal production problems arising from severe balance of payment difficulties. Trinidad and Tobago's trade with Guyana is conducted on a barter basis and comprises mainly petroleum products for rice, timber and concrete blocks.

This trade, however, the TTMA said, of necessity should be limited to resource based products of the two countries, which do not involve significant use of foreign exchange for extra-regional inputs.

Further, it is doubtful whether the apparent surplus in trade with Guyana represents real earnings of foreign exchange since Guyana's ability to pay is extremely limited.

Jamaica, the TTMA said, without formally invoking Article 28 of the Caricom Treaty, operates a trading regime, without reference to its obligations under the Caricom Agreement. Moreover, at the Heads of Government Conference in Nassau, Jamaica was exempted from implementation of the main proposals in recognition of its intractable economic problems.

The recent introduction of a preference towards Caricom products in the imposition of a high level of stamp duty on extra-regional imports would not in fact contribute to an appreciable increase in trade with Trinidad and Tobago. The expected benefits of Caricom exporters are superimposed at a very unfavourable competitive level arising

ing out of devaluation.

The massive devaluation of the Jamaican dollar and the continued devaluation within an auction system is the major impediment to export from Trinidad and Tobago. Under this system importers to Jamaica are reluctant to place orders for products in a situation where uncertainty exists between the exchange rate at the time of ordering and that which will be determined at the time of payment. The question of delays in payment further aggravates the situation.

RESTRICTED LIST

Further, Jamaica, in its change of industrial policy, has removed the vast majority of items from the restricted list of imports. The competitive situation in the Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaican markets has therefore been altered significantly.

Dealing with the OECS, the TTMA said that from the inception of Caricom, the OECS, member states have consistently requested waivers of treaty obligations in recognition of their small revenue base and in the interest of balanced economic development within the region. The Nassau proposals have been implemented in part in some states and not all in others.

The Nassau proposals specified in the case of the OECS the following undertakings: raising of import duties on specific products imported from extra-regional sources; increase in the value added criteria on specific products; reduction in rate of duty applicable to imports from the MDCs.

Because of the small size and pur-

chasing power of their fragmented markets, Trinidad and Tobago exporters do not find it attractive to place a high priority on those markets. Import duties apply equally to Caricom and extra-Caricom imports.

Barbados the TTMA said, tends to assess its trading situation with Trinidad and Tobago within the overall context of all areas of co-operation envisaged under the treaty, i.e. trade, air transport, energy and foreign policy. The major impediment, however, to exports from Trinidad and Tobago to Barbados is the absence of a uniform application of Negative List and price ceilings in the two countries. This differential treatment results in Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers having to compete with imports from third countries into Barbados, whereas Barbados manufacturers enjoy full protection in the export of their products to the Trinidad and Tobago market.

This country, however, has implemented the increases in duties of the specific products included in the Nassau Agreement. On the basis of data available from January to March, 1985, exports from Trinidad and Tobago to Barbados comprised, in the main, juices, confectionery and biscuits, paints and iron and steel products.

A solution to the trading problems, however, remains within the nexus of overall areas of co-operation. Recent discussions between the two governments and exchange of High Commissioners indicate a willingness on the part of both countries to resolve outstanding issues.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LAYED OFF WORKERS STORM PLANT PREMISES IN PROTEST

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jul 85 p 3

[Article by Suzanne Morris]

[Text]

SCORES of retrenched workers stormed the premises of Amalgamated Industries Limited at Tumpuna Road, Arima, yesterday morning and staged a protest occupation of the administrative offices as the plant prepared to resume operations with a scaled-down work force.

Some 60 workers forced their way through the motor assembly plant's main gate around 9 a.m. yesterday and refused to leave until their demands were met. Their action forced the plant to shutdown at midday.

The incident happened shortly after 350 employees were admitted to the plant for the resumption of work. Scores of their former colleagues, who were retrenched last month, gathered outside the company's main gates and attempted to get into the plant but they were restrained by members of the Police Tactical Unit who were out in full force.

WORK DISRUPTED

However, later in the morning some of the displaced workers managed to get the gates open and several of them rushed inside before the police could restore order. Their action led to a complete disruption of work and employees who had been called out for duty by the company remained idle until the plant closed at midday.

The retrenched workers and their representatives, the Transport and Industrial Workers' Union (TIWU), are agitating for re-employment of the displaced employees, or, in lieu of this, full severance payment.

Company officials are claiming that it is impossible for them to pay the full \$10.5 million that is owed in severance benefits. They want to pay those entitled in

three instalments.

As industrial unrest at the plant intensified officials of the Ministry of Labour were on standby to hold urgent conciliatory talks with both parties. But up to late yesterday there was no indication that such a meeting had taken place.

Last week the Ministry officials held a series of informal talks with the company and union in an effort to resolve the impasse. But both sides remained adamant about their positions in the issue.

BITTER STRUGGLE

According to reports, while company officials expressed their willingness to go through the conciliatory procedures, TIWU representatives did not respond to the invitation to hold discussions. Union officials ex-

pressed doubt that the talks would be helpful at this stage in the impasse.

Yesterday the union officials met with the affected workers outside the plant at Arima to discuss the state of the impasse. They have said that they will stage a long and bitter struggle to win full severance entitlements for the workers.

The company has already sent out notices and cheques to some of the retrenched employees indicating that they were paying out the first portion of the severance entitlements. But many workers have said that they will hold out for full payment.

Their protest chant as they marched outside the company's gates yesterday was, "We want all we money!"

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OPPOSITION LEADER PANDAY COMMENTS ON DOMINICAN ELECTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Jul 85 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

SAN FERNANDIANS saw the victory by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles in the Dominica general elections on Monday as an endorsement of the democratic process.

They felt that the people of Dominica were given a clear choice by Miss Charles, who openly told the electorate the things for which she stood free-enterprise system and the preservation of the democratic process and that she was against communism.

Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday said that democracy prevailed. "I have always respected the democratic process," he added.

A spokesman for the Borough Action Team

(BAT) said that BAT wanted to express congratulations to Miss Charles on her re-election.

He added: "Free and fair elections must continue to be the hallmark of democracy in the Caribbean, especially among newly-independent nations. The people of Dominica have responded admirably, voting in large numbers and have indicated by the overall results that not only were they prepared to support and maintain the democratic system, but indeed that all citizens are entitled to aspire for political office despite allegations of communism and anti-state practices."

The spokesman added: "Victories for oppo-

sition members Rosie Douglas and Patrick John are, therefore, important from that standpoint.

"I believe that Prime Minister Charles left the people in no doubt about the things for which she stood and her acceptance to preserve the free enterprise system in the matter of local and foreign investment. BAT believes that the overall conduct of the elections will serve as an inspiration to other developing nations in the Caribbean in the preservation of democracy."

STILL POPULAR

Mr Owen C Hinds, President General of the Contractors and General Workers' Union, said the results

showed that Miss Charles's Freedom Party seemed ~~still~~ very popular in the country.

"I think that the results showed the preservation of the democratic system."

Many San Fernandians said the results pleased them, as Miss Charles had demonstrated the strength of her own conviction and whether one agreed with her or not, one had to admit that she stood gallantly for what she believed.

They admired her presentation of the basis of telling the electorate clearly the path her Government intended to take and the sacrifices which she felt they would have to make in order to preserve democracy and serve the best interests of the country.

CSO: 3298/847

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

MISSION TO FAR EAST--Three government ministers, four senior civil servants and about 30 businessmen are expected to accompany Prime Minister George Chambers during his tour of the Far East due to start next week. The government ministers expected to go on tour include External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir, Industry and Commerce Minister Wendell Mottley, and Minister in the Ministry of Community Development Muriel Dolawa-McDavidson. The civil servants included on the trip are expected to be: Basdeo Maharaj, Frank Barsotti, Dr Euric Bobb, and Eldon Warner. Export Development Corporation Chairman Arthur Lok Jack is also included in the official party. Among the 30 businessmen are Trade Confirmers managing director Tarran Seegobin, Cole Cold managing director De Aleem Mohammed and Bob Yorke. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 85 p 1]

UREA DEAL WITH INDIA--Trinidad and Tobago has made a major breakthrough in the international urea market by landing a \$25 million TT deal with the government of India. National Energy Corporation chairman Dr Kenneth Julien, who announced the sale to a packed hall of businessmen at Plipdeco House in Pt Lisas on Wednesday, said this country had to beat competition from the USA, Europe, Korea and other developed countries to procure the sale. The deal, under which NEC's urea company at Pt Lisas will supply 60,000 tonnes of urea by the end of the year, was finalised by NEC board member Andrew Rose, who is also Trintoc board chairman, and Elliot Bastien, head of the Corporate Commercial operation. The duo returned from India on Tuesday night. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 85 p 24]

SURINAME UNIONIST BARRED--Surinamese trade unionist, Roy Adama was yesterday denied entry into Trinidad after failing to fulfill visa requirements. Adama, a civil engineer, was scheduled to deliver an address at the fourth biennial conference of the Bank and General Workers Union today replacing Fred Derby, President of the Central-7 of Suriname who was unable to attend the conference because of other obligations. According to the BGWU, when Adama arrived at Piarco on Thursday he was informed by immigration authorities that he had not fulfilled visa entry requirements and did not have permission to speak at the conference. President-general of the BGWU, Michael Als and assistant general secretary, Moylin Mannick spoke with immigration authorities and Adama on Thursday night but were unable to resolve the situation. Up to 11 a.m. yesterday when Adama flew back to Suriname, Als attempted to speak with National Security officials but was unsuccessful in getting Adama to stay. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Jun 85 p 32]

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